

Ryan: Republicans Should Follow 'Conscience' on Trump

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Paul Ryan says Republican lawmakers should follow their conscience in deciding whether or not to support Donald Trump, the GOP's presumptive nominee for president. The Wisconsin Republican told NBC's "Meet the Press" that "the last thing I would do is tell anybody to do something that's contrary to their conscience. Of course I wouldn't do that."

Continued on page 4

House Speaker Paul Ryan speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington.
(AP Photo/S. Applewhite)



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EgyptAir black boxes badly damaged, likely to prolong probe

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The voice and data recorders from the EgyptAir plane that crashed into the Mediterranean nearly a month ago are "extensively damaged" and will need repairs before they can be analyzed, an Egyptian official said Friday, dampening hopes for quick answers as to what caused the disaster.

The official didn't elaborate on how long the repairs would take but said if this cannot be done in Egypt, the so-called "black boxes" would be sent abroad. The official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

With the wreckage of the Airbus A320 some 3,000 meters under water, the cockpit voice and flight data recorders are vital for piecing together the last moments of the flight, which plunged into the sea between the Greek island of Crete and the Egyptian port city of Alexandria



This photo shows an EgyptAir Airbus A320 taking off from Vienna International Airport, Austria. The voice and data recorders from the EgyptAir plane that crashed into the Mediterranean nearly a month ago are "extensively damaged" and will need repairs before they can be analyzed, an Egyptian official said Friday, June 17, 2016.

(AP Photo/Thomas Ranner)

on May 19, killing all 66 on board.

Earlier in the day, Egypt's investigation commission said the flight data recorder had been pulled out of the sea, a day after the cockpit voice recorder was also recovered. Both were brought to Cairo for analysis. The memory units inside the recorders can provide

key data, including the last conversations inside the cockpit, information about auto-pilot mode or even smoke alarms. They might also give answers to why the pilot made no distress call before the crash.

Experts say the data, combined with previously obtained satellite and radar images, debris analysis, the

plane history and the pilots' records, can shed light on the most possible scenarios. No militant group has claimed bringing down the aircraft. "We will be having a wealth of information that helps the investigators

eliminate some possibilities while giving priority to others," said Hani Galal, an Egyptian aviation expert. He is not involved in this crash investigation but has taken part in other similar probes. Both France and the United States are sending investigators to Cairo to help with the probe.

EgyptAir Flight 804 en route to Cairo from Paris disappeared May 19 from radar at about 2:45 a.m. local time, just as it had entered Egyptian airspace. Radar data showed the aircraft had made violent moves after cruising normally in clear skies, plummeting from 38,000 feet (11,582 meters) to 15,000 feet (4,572 meters). It disappeared when it was at an altitude of about 10,000 feet (3,048 meters).

Leaked flight data indicated a sensor had detected smoke in a lavatory and a fault in two of the plane's cockpit windows in the final moments of the flight. □

China's President Xi arrives in Serbia

JOVANA GEC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Serbia on Friday for a visit meant to boost relations with the friendly nation and assert China's intention to increase its presence in the Balkans and Europe. Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic and government officials welcomed Xi as he landed at Belgrade's airport. A Serbian folk group performed traditional dances as part of the welcoming ceremony. The visit will "open a new page" in relations between the two countries, Xi said in a speech translated into Serbian and distributed by the Serbian presidency. "China is ready ... to raise the level of bilateral ties," Xi said.

He added that the two countries also cooperate with China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative — a sweeping plan to deepen trade relations with neighboring countries and open

new markets, like Serbia.

Serbia's president Nikolic said in a statement that China was "undoubtedly offering a friendly hand" as Serbia seeks to restart its economy ravaged by years of crisis during the 1990s.

China has been seeking opportunities to deepen ties to the region. Several meetings of southeast European countries and China have been held in the past years and accompanied by investment projects, mostly in energy and infrastructure. The Asian economic power has also sought to improve cooperation with the European Union.

Xi also inaugurated a Chinese cultural center at the site of the former Chinese embassy which was bombed accidentally during NATO's 1999 air war against Serbia over Kosovo. With helicopters flying above and scores of police keeping guard, Xi also took a tour of the Belgrade fortress. □

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Kerry's Arctic climate change adventure hits Greenland

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

ABOARD THE HDMS THETIS, Greenland (AP) — Sailing through fields of large icebergs aboard a Danish naval vessel, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry brought his tour of the Arctic to Greenland on Friday, visiting the Northern Hemisphere's largest glacier to bring attention to the dangers of climate change.

Hazarding a brief June snow and hail flurry in Disko Bay off Greenland's third largest city of Ilulissat, population 4,500, some 220 miles (350 kilometers) north of the Arctic Circle, Kerry was meeting with scientists researching the dramatic erosion of the Sermeq Kujalleq Glacier that is contributing to global sea rise. The icecap has receded 12.4 miles (20 kilometers) since 2001, with a large increase since 2002.

A number of factors, including increasing air temperatures, the rise of black carbon emissions that discolor the ice and make it absorb more heat, and the introduction of warm subsurface water from the Gulf Stream which erodes the ice sheet from below, have all contributed to the retreat of the glacier, which is the most active outside Antarctica in terms of iceberg production.

"There is profound change throughout the Arctic region," said Kerry, clad in a green thermal parka and aviator sunglasses as Her Danish Majesty's Ship Thetis cruised around the bay. "There are combined forces

having this impact, but we also know that human beings, by the choices we are making to provide our power, our energy, are having a profound negative impact. There is a gigantic transformation taking place."

The study of the Sermeq Kujalleq Glacier is considered critical to understanding the effects of climate change and notably as a laboratory for ice loss in the Antarctic, which is far less accessible but has the potential to be 100 times greater than in the Arctic, according to David Holland, an American scientist from New York University, who briefed Kerry and Danish Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen.

"Things are changing and we are perhaps the last generation that can do something about it," said Jensen, whose country handles Greenland's defense and foreign affairs under a home-rule agreement.



Secretary of State John Kerry waits to do an interview during a tour the Jakobshavn Glacier and the Ilulissat Icefjord, near the Arctic Circle, Friday, June 17, 2016, in Ilulissat, Greenland.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci, Pool)

ment.

Holland from NYU and Soren Rysgaard of Greenland's Institute of Natural Resources estimated that the glacier could retreat by about 62 miles (100 kilometers) over the next 100 years it continues at its current rate. That would result

in a significant rise in the sea levels but would be modest compared to the impact of similar ice loss in the Antarctic, Holland said. The United States currently holds the chairmanship of the Arctic Council — the bloc of eight countries that administer territory at

the Earth's northernmost latitudes — and as America's top diplomat, Kerry has made the health of oceans and combating climate change a priority. He will host an international conference on oceans in September, the third such event he has organized. □

Putin: Russia will work with any US president

NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)

— After two days of meetings with top European officials and international executives, Russian President Vladimir Putin sounded reconciliatory in a roundtable with international media Friday, saying Russia is ready to work with whoever is elected the new U.S. president and offering only a mild condemnation of the IAAF's decision to ban Russian track and field athletes from competing in the upcoming Olympics.

Putin spent Thursday and Friday in St. Petersburg, his home town, hosting the president of the European Commission, the Italian prime minister and chief executives of the world's biggest companies. The weekend was set to underline the futility of European and U.S. sanctions which were imposed on Russia over the 2014 annexation of Crimea and its interference in eastern Ukraine.

Speaking at the late evening meeting with the leaders of major news agencies, Putin said on Friday Russia would work with whoever is elected the new U.S. president.

"We will judge by the deeds, not words of the new United States president and will seek ways to normalize ties and advance our cooperation in economy and international security," he said.

Dampening the high spirits at Russia's top economic

gathering in St. Petersburg, track and field's world governing body on Friday ruled to uphold its ban on Russia's athletes, punishing the sports powerhouse for a systematic doping system that operated "from the top down." The IAAF said the country had made some progress in cleaning up but failed to meet the requirements for reinstatement and would be barred from sending its athletes to the Rio Games that begin in 50 days. □



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Trump battleground plan relies on skeptical allies

**T. BEAUMONT
S. PEOPLES**
Associated Press
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)
— His campaign riled by

campaigns. Trump plans instead to depend upon the national Republican Party to lead state-based efforts on his behalf, while Demo-

inclination to implement businesslike decision-making. It also carries substantial risk. If, for instance, Trump is lagging Clinton badly in

Trump," said Myers, who is not involved in the 2016 Trump or RNC efforts. "Most campaigns by June would have that person in place in key states."

Trump is largely outsourcing what's typically called a campaign's ground game, which includes the labor-intensive jobs of identifying and contacting potential supporters. Ed Brookover, recently tapped to serve as the Trump's liaison to the RNC, says the campaign is making progress on adding its own staff in key states. The campaign estimates it currently has about 30 paid staff on the ground across the country.

"There are some holes," Brookover said. "There are fewer holes than there were."

Specifically, Trump has added at least one paid staffer in both Wisconsin and Iowa in recent days, targeting two Midwestern states where he hopes to reverse Democrats' winning streaks in the November general election. The campaign has also added for the first time a human resources professional to assist with hiring.

Trump's plan to rely on his party's establishment comes as party leaders lashed out at his message in recent days.

GOP leaders including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell this week condemned Trump's renewed call, as part of his anti-terrorism strategy, to impose a temporary ban on foreign Muslims allowed to enter the country. □

Ryan

Continued from Front

Ryan, who has given a tepid endorsement to Trump, said he understands he is in a "very strange situation" to be supporting the party's presumptive nominee while not urging his fellow lawmakers to follow suit. But he said Trump is "a very unique nominee."

Ryan is the highest elected Republican official and the official chairman of the Republican convention next month. He stunned the political world in May when he held back his endorsement of Trump before grudgingly offering his support earlier this month. Since then, Ryan has been critical of Trump, calling the candidate's complaints about the impartiality of a judge of Mexican heritage a "textbook definition of a racist comment" and reiterating his opposition to Trump's proposal to temporarily ban all foreign Muslims from entering the United States.

As speaker of the House, Ryan said he feels a responsibility not to lead "some chasm in the middle of our party" that would hurt GOP chances to win the White House. Ryan was interviewed Thursday for the Sunday talk show. An excerpt was released Friday.

He told reporters at a news conference Thursday that he will continue to speak out in defense of conservative principles, despite a warning from Trump that Republican congressional leaders should "be quiet." □



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, N.C. Trump is working to address a battleground state staffing shortage that highlights his reliance on a skeptical GOP establishment.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

infighting and Republican revolt, Donald Trump is working to address a battleground state staffing shortage that highlights his reliance on a skeptical GOP establishment.

The New York billionaire has slowly begun to add paid staff in a handful of swing states — Wisconsin and Iowa, among them — even as campaign officials concede the presumptive presidential nominee has little desire or capacity to construct the kind of massive national operation that has come to define modern-day White House

crat Hillary Clinton has had an army of staff dedicated specifically to her campaign in general election battlegrounds for months.

"It would be disingenuous and wrongheaded to take a playbook that has been used over and over again," said Trump senior aide Karen Giorno, in charge of an 11-state Southeastern bloc including battlegrounds Florida, North Carolina and Virginia. "We are creating the playbook." The unconventional approach reflects Trump's disdain for traditional Republican campaign practices and

polls come early fall, there is nothing to stop the RNC from cutting its losses and focusing instead on saving Republican control of the Senate or other competitive contests also on the ballot this November. Beth Myers, who managed 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney's campaign, said White House candidates have unique needs that a broader-brush approach cannot always meet.

"The presidential campaign is going to want to have someone on the ground whose interest is 100 percent Donald J.

Records: Orlando gunman talked about violence in 3rd grade



Ernesto Vergne looks at a cross honoring his friend Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado and the other victims at a memorial to those killed in the Pulse nightclub mass shooting a few blocks from the club early Friday, June 17, 2016, in Orlando, Fla.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

MITCH WEISS
RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP) — As early as third grade, the Florida nightclub shooter talked frequently about sex and violence and before finishing high school was suspended for a total of 48 days, including for fighting and hurting classmates, school records showed. In the years since, other people reported having disturbing run-ins with Omar Mateen, including a bartender who said he stalked her nearly a decade ago and sent so many uncomfortable Facebook messages that she blocked him on the social network. Mateen, whose attack on the Pulse nightclub left 49 people dead and 53 wounded, enrolled in Florida public schools after his parents moved in 1991 from New York City to Port Saint Lucie, on the Atlantic coast. Teachers "couldn't seem to help him," said Dan Alley, retired dean of Martin County High School. "We tried to counsel him and show him the error of his ways, but it never had the effect that we were hoping for." Some of the same behavior followed Mateen into adulthood. His first wife has complained that he beat her, and the security com-

pany where he worked once reassigned him after he made inflammatory comments about minorities. The 29-year-old was killed Sunday in a shootout with police as they moved into the gay club. At least some of his suspensions were for fighting that involved injuries. Others were for unspecified rule violations, according to the records. For elementary and early middle school, Mateen attended class in neighboring St. Lucie County, where teachers said he was disruptive and struggled academically. A third-grade teacher wrote that he was "very active ... constantly moving, verbally abusive, rude, aggressive." The teacher described "much talk about violence & sex," with Mateen's "hands all over the place - on other children, in his mouth." In seventh grade, school administrators moved Mateen to another class to "avoid conflicts with other students." That same report said Mateen was doing poorly in several subjects because of "many instances of behavioral problems." In a 1999 letter to Mateen's father, one of his middle school teachers wrote that the boy's "attitude and inability to show self-control

in the classroom create distractions."

"Unfortunately, Omar has great difficulty focusing on his classwork since he often seeks the attention of his classmates through some sort of noise, disruption or distraction," the letter said. He withdrew from Martin County High School in 2003 and eventually graduated from Stuart Adult Community High School, records show.

In 10th grade, he received a five-day suspension on Sept. 13, 2001, two days after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The records offer no details except to call it a "rule violation." But in recent media reports, classmates have said it was because he cel-

ebrated the attacks.

Mateen's father, Seddique Mateen, "would not back up the school, and he would always take his son's side," Alley said.

Mateen's father has suggested his son had anti-gay feelings after recently seeing two men kiss. But others have said he was a regular at the Orlando club and that he tried to pick up men there.

Dina McHugh recalled Mateen taunting her about being a lesbian when they were in middle school, before she was even aware of her own sexual orientation.

Now openly gay, McHugh said Mateen's teasing more than 16 years ago stung deeply enough that she paid him back by kicking him in the crotch. □

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California inferno points to another bad year

**NICK UT
JOHN ANTCHAK
Associated Press**

GOLETA, Calif. (AP) — Stoked by winds, a wildfire burning west of Santa Barbara roared down mountain slopes toward the Pacific Ocean, shutting down California's major coastal

and the U.S. Forest Service already have fought more than 1,800 wildfires since Jan. 1, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. While El Nino delivered rain and snow to Northern California this winter, the south was bypassed. What

winds start to pick up," said Eric Boldt, a warning coordination meteorologist. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department posted a picture of firefighters near El Capitan State Beach taking shelter behind a fire engine as flames and a hail of embers roared toward



Santa Barbara County firefighter Cesar Martinez hauls hose up a slope as a wildfire burns west of Goleta, Calif., Thursday, June 16, 2016. The wildfire burning in rugged coastal canyons west of Santa Barbara is growing as it feeds on vegetation that hasn't burned in 70 years.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

highway and forcing a group of firefighters to seek shelter behind a fire engine as flames licked at them. As the blaze grew to more than 6 square miles, authorities warned Friday that the region's notorious afternoon and evening "sundowner" gusts would recur through the next two days. Weekend fire dangers already were expected to worsen with the arrival of an extreme heatwave across the Southwest. In central New Mexico, a blaze that began Tuesday had destroyed more than two dozen homes and charred more than 26 square miles near the small community of Chilili. It cast a thick haze over the Manzano Mountain range south of Albuquerque that reached as far north as Denver. The California inferno appeared to support national wildfire authorities' predictions of another dangerous and difficult year for the state after years of drought. State firefighters

rain fell was just enough to sprout grasses that quickly died, adding to the danger of long-dead vegetation. "It is ominous and we are concerned because the fuels out there are drought-stressed," Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Eric Peterson told a press conference. About 140 homes and ranches were considered at risk in southern Santa Barbara County at the foot of the rugged Santa Ynez Mountains, an east-west trending range that parallels the south-facing coast. Fires become especially dangerous when sundowners are formed by high pressure inland to the north and low pressure over the ocean to the south, causing gusty winds to sweep down the face of the mountains. A gust in the fire area around 1 a.m. Friday was clocked at 47 mph, the National Weather Service said. "You can pretty much set your clock by it, about 5 o'clock in the evening the

them. U.S. 101, the state's main coastal highway, had to be shut down for hours for the second time since the fire erupted Wednesday. "I was actually on scene last night and saw some of the fire tornados, and I tell you what, it's no joke. ... It was off the hook," said Highway Patrol Lt. Steve Larson. He expected more closures. Sundowners force firefighters to fall back into defensive mode, said Robert Laeng, the federal incident commander. "Our defensive strategy will continue to emphasize protection of life and property while we look for a place to turn the corner and push this back up into the mountains and get full containment," he said. A firefighting DC-10 jumbo jet led an air attack Friday morning, dropping vast swaths of retardant to stop the fire's movement across difficult-to-reach terrain. A fleet of planes and helicopters have assisted an army of fighters on the ground. □

'Rare, dangerous' heat is headed to part of Western United States

**ALICIA CHANG
Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a dry heat, Phoenix residents like to say about Arizona's hot weather. That bravado may vanish as the thermometer flirts with 120 degrees this weekend.

Phoenix won't be alone in the oven. A strengthening ridge of high pressure lifting out of Mexico is on course to also scorch other parts of Arizona and Southern California, bringing potentially record-shattering temperatures.

Though accustomed to triple digits, the upcoming heat spell is a rarity in Phoenix, a desert metropolis of 1.5 million people, raising concerns of heat stroke.

Temperatures are predicted to hit 118 degrees in Phoenix on Sunday and peak at 119 degrees Monday. Such heat is "rare, dangerous and deadly," according to a National Weather Service warning.

"This is extreme even for our standards," said Matthew Hirsch, a weather service meteorologist in Phoenix.

The hottest day on record in Phoenix occurred June 26, 1990, when the thermometer reached 122 degrees.

Extreme heat is likely to become more common, scientists say, blaming man-made greenhouse gas pollution. "We should anticipate more and more of this extreme heat, and we're getting to feel it firsthand. It is what global warming looks and feels like," University of Arizona climate scientist Jonathan Overpeck said in an email.

During heat waves, people should watch for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, including high body temperature, dizziness and nausea. If untreated, heat stroke can lead to disability or even death.

Health experts say even a difference of a few degrees outside can cause the body temperature to spike, potentially affecting the brain and other organs. The elderly, babies and those with health problems are especially vulnerable because they can't cool down as fast. Between 2006 and 2010, some 3,000 Americans died from heat-related illnesses, according to government statistics.

"No one needs to die in a heat wave, yet we do have deaths. They're all preventable," said Kristie Ebi, a professor of global health at the University of Washington. Earlier this month, a swath of the West Coast sweltered under heat warnings that forced sporting events to start in the evening and festivals to ditch some of the usual pomp and circumstance. Phoenix experienced its earliest recorded 115-degree day on June 4.

On Friday, the agency that operates California's wholesale power system said it's preparing for the heat and may ask residents to voluntarily conserve power to prevent rotating outages.

Death Valley, California, which bills itself as the hottest place on the planet, is expected to live up to its reputation. Temperatures are predicted to exceed 120 degrees next week, according to government forecasters.

Las Vegas is expected to see temperatures up to 112 for the weekend. By the middle of next week, the high pressure ridge is expected to shift toward the Four Corners region — southwestern Colorado, southeastern Utah, northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico, which will likely see above-normal temperatures.

As in previous heat waves, those living in high heat zones are urged to limit outdoor activities this weekend and to seek shelter in air-conditioned buildings. People should also stay hydrated and drink plenty of water.

June is typically the warmest — and driest — month for desert Southwest states. This toasty period is followed by the monsoon season marked by dust storms, flash floods and lightning. □

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1,200-foot amusement ride proposed for NY's Penn Station

KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Catching a train at New York's crowded Penn Station is no thrill. But a development team has proposed a novel plan to overhaul the station: Build a 1,200-foot thrill ride on top of it and pay for renovations by charging \$35 a ticket.

The plan submitted to state officials envisions a transparent tower called the Halo with 11 gondolas offering free-fall rides of varying speeds.

"You're experiencing New York City in an unforgettable way," said Alexandros Washburn, president of Brooklyn Capital Partners, the partnership behind the plan. "It's something you will not be able to do anywhere else in the world."

John Gerber, chairman of Brooklyn Capital Partners, said the ride is feasible from an engineering standpoint, but he acknowledged that government agencies and New Yorkers might not embrace the idea.



In this undated artist's rendering provided by AESuperlab, the proposed train station thrill ride on top in New York's Penn Station is shown from ground level. A development team has proposed a novel plan to overhaul the New York City's Penn Station. They want to build a 1,200-foot thrill ride on top of it and pay for renovations by charging \$35 a ticket.

(AESuperlab via AP)

Other ideas floated for renovating the station have included more traditional concepts, like building of-

fice towers.

"It's a public process and there are a lot of stakeholders," Gerber said. "Any-

thing that's new is going to be complicated."

Washburn and Gerber submitted their plan after Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo put out a request in January for proposals to renovate the rail hub he called "a blight on the greatest city in the world." Plans to redo Penn Station, which handles more than 650,000 passengers daily on Amtrak and commuter rail lines, have been stalled for years. Washburn and Gerber both previously served as president of the Penn Station Redevelopment Corp., a public-private body that oversaw an earlier upgrade. "We have been there. We know that a new approach is needed," said Washburn, an architect who also has held the job of chief urban designer for New York City. Washburn said that as "out of the box" as the thrill-ride plan might seem, "It's coming from people who have worked on building New York City for 20 years."

Washburn and Gerber say the Halo could be situated either on top of Madison Square Garden, the arena that crowns the underground Penn Station, or one block west atop the Farley Post Office building. They say it would generate \$25 million to \$38 million a year in ticket sales.

Washburn said he got the idea from the New York Wheel, the 630-foot Ferris wheel now under construction on Staten Island. "We figured, aha! Take that circle, make it horizontal and elevate it," he said.

Jonathan Gouveia, senior director of planning and infrastructure for the Municipal Art Society, an urban planning advocacy group, said he sees problems with the thrill ride.

Gouveia said placing the ride on top of Madison Square Garden and Penn Station would foreclose the option of moving the Garden off Penn Station, which his organization has pushed for. □

Vegas cab industry disputes audit suggesting \$47M overcharge

MICHELLE RINDELS
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A report commissioned by Nevada taxi companies disputes that the industry was overcharging Las Vegas-area customers by more than \$47 million a year.

The analysis, completed on behalf of the Livery Operators Association by economist Jeremy Aguero and his company Applied Analysis, was a response to a scathing state audit of the Nevada Taxicab Authority that was released in January. Aguero's report contends that potential overcharges were closer to \$3 million a year.

He told a panel of lawmakers on Thursday that the taxi industry and its regulators did not systematically gouge customers, and "allowing such a conclusion to stand puts our tourism industry at risk."

The biggest single factor in the \$47 million figure was about \$20 million a year in credit card fees. State auditors said a \$3-per-transaction fee when riders pay a fare with a card was too much and far exceeded the actual cost of processing a credit card.

Aguero's report argues that there's nothing in Nevada law that would preclude the fee or limit it to

covering the costs of the processing. He noted that cities around the country tack a variety of charges onto cab fares — including fees for vomit cleanup and for packing a surfboard into a Hawaiian taxi — and that there's little uniformity in fees from region to region.

He also challenged the auditors' charge that a recent rate hike wasn't supported by evidence. Aguero said the rate hike generally kept pace with inflation.

Steve Weinberger, who oversees the state division that wrote the audit, said his office still has concerns

about whether the agency that approved the rates is doing enough to rein in taxi costs.

"On its face, that doesn't really look like they're looking out for their constituents because there's a lack of accountability," he said Thursday at a legislative subcommittee meeting.

Lawmakers on the panel didn't make any decisions about taxi fees and surcharges, but they did take action Thursday on another audit recommendation: that the Nevada Taxicab Authority be abolished and consolidated with another agency.

The panel voted to rec-

ommend that the Taxicab Authority, which oversees Clark County cabs, merge with the Nevada Transportation Authority, which oversees taxis in the rest of the state. They want the Legislature to reorganize the agencies as a full, stand-alone state department, instead of as a division within the state's Department of Business and Industry.

Legislators said taxi regulation has been a consistent source of problems and needs more dedicated attention. The full Legislature is expected to tackle the reorganization when it reconvenes next year. □

Iraq says most of Fallujah retaken from IS militants



Iraqi security forces advance their positions during heavy fighting against Islamic State group militants in Fallujah, Iraq. Iraqi special forces entered the center of Fallujah city early Friday, June 17, 2016, taking over a government complex and a neighborhood that served as a base for the Islamic State group militants after intense fighting, a commander said. Commander Haidar al-Obeidi, of the Special Forces, told The Associated Press that the forces are now besieging the nearby central hospital, clashing with IS snipers in adjacent buildings.

(AP Photo/Anmar Khalil)

QASSIM ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi special forces swept into Fallujah on Friday, recapturing most of the city as the Islamic State group's grip crumbled after weeks of fighting. Thousands of

trapped residents took advantage of the militants' retreat to flee, some swimming across the Euphrates River to safety. Residents described harrowing escapes even after IS fighters abandoned some checkpoints that had

them bottled up in the city. On the river, some boats packed with people overturned in the water. Others picked their way down roads laced with hidden bombs that killed several. In some cases, IS allowed people to leave only if they

took the jihadis' families with them.

After weeks of heavy battles since the offensive began in late May, it appeared that IS defenses in much of the city collapsed abruptly.

In the early morning Friday, Iraqi forces punched into the city center, meeting intense fighting. But by evening, the special forces commander Brig. Haidar al-Obeidi told the Associated Press that his troops controlled 80 percent of the city, with IS fighters now concentrated in four districts on its northern edge.

It was a major step toward regaining the Islamic State group's last major foothold in Iraq's western Anbar province, the heartland of the country's Sunni minority. The militants overran the city in early 2014, the first urban area to fall into its hands before it overran most of Anbar and much of northern Iraq.

Over the past year, Iraqi forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes have city-by-city regained large parts of that territory — though the biggest prize, Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, and

surrounding territory in the north, remains in IS control, linked to its holdings in neighboring Syria.

Friday evening, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi spoke on national TV from the joint command center, congratulating the troops on their victories. "We promised to liberate Fallujah, and it has returned to the embrace of the nation," he said.

Iraqi forces have "tightened their control over the inside of the city, and there are some pockets that need to be cleaned out within hours," he said.

In the early hours, special forces pushed into Fallujah's central al-Nazzal district, which had served as a base for the militants with weapons warehouses and command centers, al-Obeidi said. Backed with air support from the U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi air force, the troops were able to move into the center at around 6 a.m. They seized the main government complex, which includes municipality offices that IS had torched, the police station and other government buildings.

Minister disowns comment that UAE's role in Yemen is over

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A top diplomat in the United Arab Emirates stepped back early Friday from his previous comments that the country's part in the Saudi-led war in Yemen was "over." Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash's

remarks come as peace talks in Kuwait City have yet to end the war in the Arab world's poorest nation, where Shiite rebels known as Houthis still hold the capital, Sanaa. That's despite numerous airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition and a ground operation in

the country. The state-run WAM news agency quoted Gargash early Friday morning as making the comments in London.

"We are at war. I am appalled that my statement was taken out of context and misinterpreted for (an) external agenda that seek to undermine the region and the (Gulf Cooperation Council) in particular," Gargash said.

However, Gargash's comments first came to light via a tweet Wednesday from Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a powerful

figure in the UAE's federation of seven sheikhdoms and the deputy supreme commander of the country's military. Sheikh Mohammed's tweet quoted Gargash as saying the war was "over for our troops" during a private lecture at a royal gathering.

The UAE, which has one of the best-equipped militaries in the region, has seen more than 80 of its soldiers killed since the Saudi-led military campaign began in March 2015, according to Emirati government media reports. The UAE has been among the most ac-

tive members of the Saudi campaign.

Yemen's civil war has killed some 9,000 people since March 2015 — a third of them civilians, according to the United Nations. The U.N. says more than 80 percent of Yemenis are in dire need of food, water and other aid.

Later Friday, a statement from the U.S. Central Command said the military had conducted three counterterrorism airstrikes targeting al-Qaida's branch in central Yemen between June 8 and June 12, killing six al-Qaida operatives and wounding one.

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Political slaying shocks UK; impact on referendum unclear

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It's not yet clear how the killing of a Labour Party lawmaker who campaigned for Britain to remain in the European Union will affect next week's referendum, but what is certain is that her death will be a turning point in what has been an often vitriolic battle over the country's future.

The referendum campaign was abruptly halted following the slaying of 41-year-old Jo Cox, who was shot and stabbed to death Thursday on the streets of her small-town constituency.

An idealistic politician who had praised the contribution of immigrants to Britain and championed the cause of war-scarred Syrian refugees, Cox had strongly favored the "remain" campaign. The 52-year-old man arrested for her killing has suspected ties to white supremacist, neo-Nazi groups.

"It's obviously a crisis moment, it changes things," Robert Worcester, founder of the Ipsos MORI polling firm said of the potential impact on Thursday's vote on whether Britain should remain in the EU or leave the 28-nation bloc.

"If one of them handles it badly, the backlash would be ferocious," he said. "Right now they are trying to figure out how to respond."

Worcester, a veteran pollster with decades of experience, said a tragedy like the killing of Cox just one week before a crucial vote is rare and could have unpredictable consequences on the public mood.

"I don't think the assassination itself will impact the vote, it's what they do with it," he said of the two sides



Prime Minister David Cameron and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and Shadow foreign secretary Hilary Benn prepare to lay floral tributes in Birstall, northern England, for Jo Cox, the 41-year-old British Member of Parliament shot to death in northern England, Friday June 17, 2016. The mother of two young children was shot to death Thursday afternoon in her constituency near Leeds. A 52-year-old man has been arrested but has not been charged.

(Danny Lawson/PA via AP)

in what has been a bitter and divisive campaign. "I think they will both express sadness, sadness that this would happen in this country, which is not a gun country, not a place where guns are carried."

The killing has silenced normally voluble analysts, academics and betting parlor managers who are reluctant to speculate on how the referendum vote may be impacted by the bloodshed.

Mark Dowding, a manager at BlueBay Asset Management, which oversees \$58 billion in funds, said his company had taken a "short" position on the British pound — in effect betting it would go down, as

is expected if Britain votes to leave the EU — but has changed course because of the assassination.

"I think this can have a significant impact on the vote," he said.

The rival camps have not yet said when the referendum campaign will resume. It had taken a decidedly nasty turn in the days before the shooting as the "leave" side hammered home what it maintains are the risks of higher rates of immigration into Britain.

Days before the shooting, the leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party, Nigel Farage, unveiled a poster showing hordes of dark-skinned immigrants entering Europe on foot, suggesting that only by leaving the EU would Britain be spared this onslaught.

The words "BREAKING POINT" in capital letters were emblazoned atop the image.

"This is scaremongering in its most extreme and vile form," said Dave Prentis, the leader of UNISON, one of the UK's largest trade unions, which backs remaining in the EU. □

French minister, union chief meet after street unrest

PARIS (AP) — The leader of France's left-wing CGT union, the main force of opposition to an unpopular labor reform bill that has led to violence in the streets, says he's asked the labor minister to suspend parliamentary debate on the measure and re-write it. Two days after an 80,000-strong Paris demonstration that degenerated into violent clashes with the police, Philippe Martinez met on Friday with Labor Minister Myriam El Khomri, and said later that two

planned protest actions this month would not be called off, at least for now.

The contested bill would weaken France's tight labor protections, notably allowing individual companies, after negotiations, to set specific work rules — such as working hours but not wages — instead of applying industry-wide deals. El Khomri insists the issue remains key to the reform.

Martinez said: "We've always said the bill should be withdrawn to be re-written."

The bill is to be voted on June 28 in the Senate. The text will then need to be debated again in the lower house of parliament, which has final say.

A group of seven worker unions and student organizations, including the CGT, has called for two "national days of mobilization" on June 23 and June 28.

Earlier this week, President Francois Hollande warned that future street protests might be banned if the safety of people and public property is threatened.

Separately, three Air France pilots' unions called Friday for a 4-day strike next week to demand better working conditions. Flights carrying spectators to cities holding matches for the European soccer championship might be affected.

Last week, about 20 percent of Air France's domestic and international flights were cancelled in a strike for the same reasons.

Unions plan to keep up the strike from June 24 to June 27, demanding better pay and more flight hours. □

Putin calls on Europe to improve ties despite sanctions

NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin called on European leaders Friday to heal ties with his country despite sanctions after meeting with European investors who said they want to expand their businesses there. Speaking at Russia's top economic conference, Putin said top German and French investors expressed interest to invest more in Russia despite the weight of the sanctions, some of which the European Union extended just as Putin was speaking.

"Politicians should meet the businessmen halfway, show wisdom, long-term thinking and flexibility," Putin said. "We need to bring back trust to Russia-European relations and restore the level of cooperation." Russia, he said, doesn't need a new Cold War.

He stressed that Russia's ban on EU foodstuffs and other retaliatory measures were imposed "in response" to the EU sanctions.

"We don't bear grudges



Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, June 17, 2016.

and we are willing to meet our European partners halfway — this, however, must not be a one-way street," he added.

Commenting on former French President Nicolas Sarkozy's suggestion that Russia should help warm ties by lifting its EU food imports ban, Putin said Russia could consider it if it were

sure that the EU will follow suit.

"We would be ready to take such steps if we were confident that they wouldn't cheat us," he said.

Putin pointed at the U.S. as the driving engine behind anti-Russian sanctions, saying they have done little harm to the American companies while badly

hurting the Europeans.

"The Americans are saying their partners should put up with it, but why should they?" Putin said.

Putin also accused the U.S. and its NATO allies for ignoring Russia's legitimate interests. He said there is no reason for NATO's continued expansion, and noted that the U.S.-led NATO mis-

sile defense plans pose a threat to Russia.

Western leaders and company executives went to Russia's St. Petersburg Economic Forum this year after a two-year break that felt like a boycott, signaling a growing fatigue in some parts of Europe over the sanctions.

Putin met with the CEO of Royal Dutch Shell and other international executives on Thursday, telling them that Russia is open to Western investment despite the strained ties.

Alexei Pushkov, the chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Russian parliament, said on Twitter on Friday that "the dynamics" at the St. Petersburg gathering "shows that the restoration of ties between Russia and the EU will be slow and contradictory but inevitable."

The United States and the European Union slapped Russia with economic sanctions in 2014 after it annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and threw its backing to separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. □

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

Strikes on Syria's divided city of Aleppo kill 7; activists wounded

SARAH EL DEEB
PHILIP ISSA

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Renewed Syrian government airstrikes on the northern, bitterly contested city of Aleppo killed at least seven people on Friday, just hours before a Russia-announced truce was to expire at midnight, activists said.

Earlier, two media activists who were seriously wounded in an explosion the previous day in the city were taken to neighboring Turkey for treatment. The two have been documenting Syria's war, traveling with rebels and reporting on some of the fiercest battles in the conflict, now in its sixth year.

The activist Local Coordination Committees said seven people were killed in the airstrikes on Aleppo on Friday evening, mainly around the rebel-held Qa-

tirji neighborhood. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group put the death toll at nine.

The blast went off late Thursday as the two walked into their apartment building, said Bibars Mishal, a rescue worker in the Syrian Civil Defense volunteers. The force of the blast blew out the entrance door, parts of the walls, along with wires and electricity boxes.

AlEissa suffered a wound to the head while Abdullah was buried under the rubble. "It took us about 15 minutes to cut the wires and pull them out," Mishal told The Associated Press by telephone from Aleppo. Other activists called it an assassination attempt against Abdullah and his colleague, accusing government agents in the city of targeting them.

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11 get life in prison for role in deadly 2002 riots in India



An Indian man convicted for the 2002 Gujarat riots is taken back to jail after the court announced the lengths of the sentences in Ahmadabad, India, Friday, June 17, 2016.

(AP Photo/Ajit Solanki)

NEW DELHI (AP) — An Indian court on Friday sentenced 11 people to life in prison for murder in one of the many deadly religious riots that swept across the western state of Gujarat in 2002 and left more than 1,000 dead. Special Court Judge P.B. Desai rejected the de-

mand for the death penalty after finding the prosecution failed to prove the charge of criminal conspiracy against the defendants. The judge sentenced 12 more people to seven years in prison and one to 10 years in connection with the same riot in a Muslim

neighborhood in Ahmadabad, a key city in the state in which a mob set dozens of homes on fire and 69 people were killed. The judge described the Ahmadabad killings on Feb. 28, 2002, as the "darkest day" in the history of civil society, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. The dead included a former lawmaker from the opposition Congress party, Ehsan Jafri. His widow, Zakia Jafri, expressed her disappointment with the verdict. "This is hardly the punishment for the crime they have committed," she said.

Activist Anand Yagnik said the death penalty would have been a proper punishment. The Gujarat riots, which erupted after a train car full of Hindu nationalists was engulfed in a fire that killed 60 people inside, pitted mobs of Hindus against Muslims, who were widely blamed for setting the fire, though arson was never confirmed. The riots have long hounded Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was Gujarat's top elected official at the time, amid allegations that authorities allowed and even encouraged

the bloodshed. Modi has repeatedly denied having any role, and India's Supreme Court has said it found no evidence to prosecute him. But criminal cases against participants in the riots have moved slowly through India's creaky legal system. The first high-profile convictions came in 2012 when Maya Kodnani, a former state government minister, and 31 others were found guilty of charges ranging from rioting to murder linked to an attack in a small industrial town on Ahmadabad's outskirts in which 95 people were killed. □

American kills himself in Taiwan courtroom over drug conviction

BEIJING (AP) — An American man killed himself by slashing his neck with a scissor blade inside a courtroom in Taiwan after being given a four-year sentence on drugs charges, prompting moves to increase security. Tyrel Martin Marhanka, 41, was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead Thursday, according to a statement from the Changhua District Court. Marhanka had been indicted in March for growing opium and marijuana at a rented site in Changhua county in central Taiwan, said the official Taiwanese Central News Agency. CNA said Marhanka told investigators he was growing the plants purely for his own consumption. The Ameri-

can had been teaching English and was living in Changhua with his Taiwanese wife and two children. The Taipei Times said he'd lived in Taiwan for more than 15 years. The court said Marhanka apparently smuggled two scissor blades by hiding them in a magazine tucked underneath his arm. The metal detecting gate at the courthouse failed to detect the blades, the court said. Both the blades and the magazine were recovered by police, the official statement said. The court expressed regrets over Marhanka's death and said it had installed two X-ray scanners to strengthen the security check. □

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No food, no teachers, violence in failing Venezuela schools

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Maria Arias slipped her notebooks into her backpack, scrounged for a banana to share with her brother and sister, and set off for high school through narrow streets so violent taxis will not come here for any price. She hoped at least one teacher would show up.

But her 7 a.m. art class was canceled when the teacher called in sick. History class was suspended. There was no gym class because the coach had been shot dead weeks earlier. And in the afternoon, her Spanish teacher sent the students home early to meet a gang-imposed curfew.

"It's a trap," the slight 14-year-old with pink lipstick complained. "You risk your life to be here and end up waiting around for hours doing nothing. But you have to keep coming because it's the only way out."

The soaring crime and economic chaos stalking Venezuela is ripping apart a once-up-and-coming school system, robbing poor students such as Maria of any chance at a better life. Officially, Venezuela has canceled 16 school days since December, including Friday classes because of an energy crisis.

In reality, Venezuelan children have missed an average of 40 percent of class time, a parent group estimates, as a third of teachers skip work on any given day to wait in food lines. At Maria's school, so many students have fainted from hunger that administrators told parents to keep underfed children home. And while the school locks its gate each morning, armed robbers still manage

to break in and stick up kids between classes.

"This country has abandoned its children. By the time we see the full consequences, there will be no way to put it right," Movement of Organized Parents

in the capital, Caracas. Shortages are even more crippling outside Caracas, where schools shut down for weeks at a time.

Chatty and so studious her classmates call her "Wikipedia," Maria started the year

na Porras has asked nearby supermarkets to let teachers cut in line. And she's disciplined staff for selling students passing grades in exchange for scarce goods like milk and flour. But appeals to teachers'

grimy, smelling of urine, and full of people waiting for something that may not come.

Classrooms with puddles are used as emergency toilets now that the bathrooms have no running water. Students play dice on the cracked asphalt of the yard, trading insults and piles of bills. The patio was used for gym class until the teacher was killed in cross-fire this spring while working a second job as a barber.

Maria's parents worry most about boys; Venezuela now has the highest teen pregnancy rate in South America. The favorite make-out spot for students is behind a pile of 30,000 unopened textbooks from the government. Teachers decided they were too full of pro-socialist propaganda to use.

Maria and her friends drink water from home instead of eating lunch, since the new cafeteria never opened because there was no food or cooking gas. A quarter of Venezuelan children missed school this year because of hunger, according to the national research group Foundation Bengoa. One recent morning, Maria's mother asked her to leave art class because a store across town was selling flour. By the time Maria arrived, the stock already had run out. She raced back to school for her afternoon math exam, but the math teacher didn't show up.

That night, Maria remarked bitterly that the metro is the cheapest thing you can buy in Caracas; if you pay for one ticket and throw yourself in front of a train, all your problems are over. Parents say they struggle to guide teenagers through situations they find hard to accept themselves. □



Maria Arias, center, works with classmates during a math class at her public high school in Caracas, Venezuela. Arias has been held at gunpoint once in school, by a boy so baby-faced she assumed he was a classmate of her 15-year-old sister. Instead, he leveled a gun at her sister's ribs and demanded the girls' flip phones.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

spokeswoman Adelba Tafin said.

Until recently Venezuela's schools were among the best in South America, and the late President Hugo Chavez made education a centerpiece of his socialist revolution. But in just a few years, the falling price of oil and underlying economic mismanagement have brought the country to its knees, along with many of its 7 million public school students. Teachers are fleeing the country, the annual dropout rate has doubled, and more than a quarter of teenagers are not enrolled. Maria's 1,700-student school sits between a slum and what was once a middle-class neighborhood

with dreams of becoming an accountant and moving to Paris. Her parents had saved up to buy her 12 new notebooks, one for each subject. Nine months later, most of the pages are still blank.

Her accounting teacher Betty Cubillan recently went missing for a week and a half. Cubillan says she comes to class as much as she can while hustling to get by on \$30 a month. "If I don't line up, I don't eat. Who's going to do it for me?" Cubillan said.

As many as 40 percent of teachers skip class on any given day to wait in food lines, according to the Venezuela Teacher's Federation. School director Hele-

sense of shame don't go far in a country that has become one of the most violent and lawless in the world. Maria has seen robberies, lootings and lynch mobs on her way to school. Workers lock a metal gate at the building's sole entrance each day, but thugs still find ways in. Maria was once held up by a baby-faced boy who leveled a gun at her sister's ribs and demanded the girls' phones. "I'm scared every day. Your heart leaps into your throat and you're like, 'Jeez, I thought a school was supposed to be safe,'" she said.

The school looks less like a place of education than a downtown bus terminal;



Scott and Barb Enjoy a Romantic Beachfront Wedding Ceremony



(Aruba Today Exclusive)
PALM BEACH - Scott and Barb Lytle met in March 2012 at their workplace. They visited Aruba staying at Paradise Beach Villas in June 2014 and got engaged on June 4th at La Trattoria, the rustic Italian restaurant situated at the lighthouse on the north coast. They are here now to celebrate their union with family and friends. They wish to thank Paradise Beach Villas and their friends the DiGiovanni family for being there for them on such a special occasion. Scott and Barb tell us "We are



truly in paradise!!" The ceremony on Aruba was officiated by Minister Willie Panopio. □

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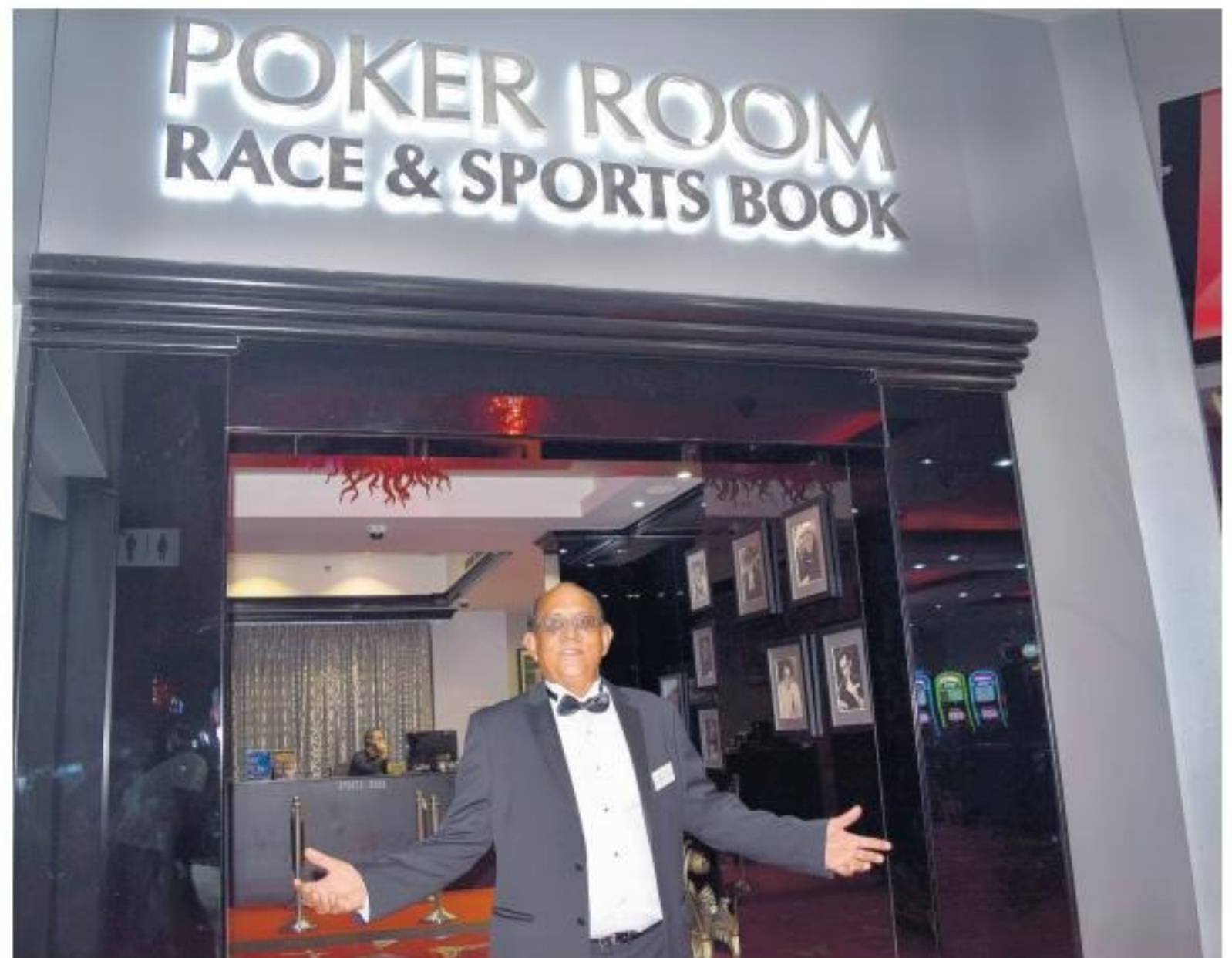


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Team Aruba is always easy to spot in their brightly colored uniforms that match their eye-catching Pro Stock Mustang. The team debuted new uniforms this year and recently presented a commemorative one to partners Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) and Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA). Together, Team Aruba, AAA and ATA work to promote 'The One Happy Island' and showcase all Aruba has to offer to travelers worldwide.

Trevor Eman, pilot of the Aruba.com Mustang, and the rest of Team Aruba have arrived at Maryland International Raceway for this weekend's IHRA President's Cup Nationals where they will continue their promotional efforts through their 200+ MPH Mustang. "We are looking forward to this weekend in Budds



Creek to be able to talk to all the fans about Aruba and our Airport," Eman emphasized. "As a matter of fact, where we are here in Maryland is very close to the Baltimore airport, which has direct flights to Aruba. Many people may not know that access to a paradise vacation is that easy. We plan to let the fans in attendance here know that Aruba is a short flight away.

"We enjoyed our recent visits to the Aruba Tourism Authority and Aruba Airport Authority," he continued. "Presenting them with a uniform was a small way of extending our gratitude for their partnership in our efforts. We are very grateful for their support and hope they tune in to watch us this weekend through the Live Feed."

Qualifying begins Friday evening with two rounds.

A final qualifying session will be held Saturday afternoon with eliminations to follow. The entire event will be broadcast live at MotorManiaTV.com. Eman currently sits third in IHRA Championship Points standings and

point in the season. Follow Team Aruba on Facebook and Twitter. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! For more on your Aruba



will be looking for a win to advance his standings as the series nears the halfway

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Dustin Johnson hits from the fairway on the third hole during the rain delayed first round of the U.S. Open golf championship at Oakmont Country Club on Friday, June 17, 2016, in Oakmont, Pa.
Associated Press

He's back: Johnson tied for lead at U.S. Open

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

OAKMONT, Pa. (AP) — One year after Dustin Johnson let the U.S. Open slip away from him at Chambers Bay, he drove his way to the top of the leaderboard Friday at Oakmont.

Immaculate from tee-to-green, Johnson endured a marathon day of 36 holes with a game that makes him look tough to beat. He didn't make a bogey in his opening round of 3-under 67, and he dropped only one shot in his 69 that ended just as the siren sounded to stop play because of darkness.

Johnson was at 4-under 136, two shots ahead of anyone else who completed the second round in the rain-delayed U.S. Open.

More than just his long ball, one of Johnson's greatest assets is a short memory. He already has squandered chances in four majors, none more crushing than



MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

LeBron, Cavs bowl over Warriors to force Game 7

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry reacts to being called for his sixth foul on Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) during the second half of Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland, Thursday, June 16, 2016.

Associated Press
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He's back

Continued from Page 17

last year when he was a 12-foot eagle putt away from winning and three-putted to finish one behind Jordan Spieth.

Asked if he was motivated by Chambers Bay, Johnson deadpanned, "What happened last year?"

Andrew Landry had a much shorter day.

The 28-year-old qualifier only had to hit one shot Friday when he returned in the morning to make a 10-foot birdie putt for a 66 and the lead. It was the best opening round in 10 majors at Oakmont, beating a record shared by Ben Hogan and Tom Watson.

Landry also became the first player in 30 years to have the sole lead after his first U.S. Open round.

Three storm delays Thursday left a disjointed schedule and no clear picture of who's in control. The nine players who completed the opening round Thursday, including 19-year-old Scottie Scheffler and his 69, had the entire day off Friday.

Those who had to return to finish the first round initially were given tee times deep into the evening until the USGA decided it best that everyone from that half of the field — including Spieth at 2 over — start Saturday morning.

Johnson went 27 holes without a bogey in a U.S. Open held on its toughest course.

The streak finally ended when he found a deep bunker left of the first fairway, advanced only 40 yards and narrowly missed a 20-foot par putt. He missed plenty of other birdie chances along the way, not alarming because Oakmont's greens are difficult to putt.

Far more impressive was his accuracy.

Johnson missed only three fairways in the second round, and he has missed only five greens through two rounds. If the lead stands after the second round is over, it would match the lowest 36-hole score in a U.S. Open at Oakmont. And he still hasn't made a birdie on a



Andrew Landry, left, and his caddie Kevin Ensor react after completing the rain delayed first round of the U.S. Open golf championship at Oakmont Country Club on Friday, June 17, 2016, in Oakmont, Pa.

Associated Press

par 5 in two rounds.

"It was a long day today, but I felt like I played really solid all day for all 36 holes," he said. "I drove it really well."

Sergio Garcia, who also knows his share of heartache in the majors, stayed with Johnson as best he could.

He made a tough par on No. 4 by playing his third shot from the fifth fairway. And he finished his round with a 50-foot par save for a 70.

Garcia was at 2-under 138, along with Scott Piercy, who also went 68-70.

"I'm too old for this," the 36-year-old Spaniard said. "We know how difficult the U.S. Open is, and here at Oakmont even tougher."

On the leaderboard, they were one shot behind Lee Westwood, who closed with two birdies in the morning for a 67.

"It was good, one of the best starts I've ever had," Westwood said. "I felt confident out there and hit a lot of good shots. I was shaping it both ways, which you need to do in U.S. Opens to get at a lot of the flags."

Daniel Summerhays, who got into the field as an alternate, had a tournament-best 65 and joined Andy Sullivan (68) at 1-under 139. Jim Furyk, a runner-up at Oakmont in the 2007 U.S. Open, also was at 1 under and faced the ninth hole Saturday morning to finish his round.

Spieth, who finished off a round of only one birdie

for a 72, returned to Oakmont in the afternoon to putt. Rory McIlroy, who

matched his worst score in a U.S. Open with a 77, came back to work on his

swing. On the course, other stars were struggling.

Jason Day, the No. 1 player in the world, opened with a 76 and was at 5 over with three holes remaining. Phil Mickelson was in danger of missing the cut for the second straight time at Oakmont. He was at 7 over with two holes remaining. For Johnson, it's time to put up his feet and contemplate another run at a major.

"He played awesome," Garcia said. "It's impressive. He drove the ball great, very far. I don't think he missed many fairways at all. Out of 36 holes here at Oakmont with only one bogey, it shows you have to play really, really well. He's going to be tough to beat, but I'll give it a shot. □"



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Raonic wants to extend partnership with McEnroe

LONDON (AP) — Three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe is helping ninth-ranked Milos Raonic prepare for the Grand Slam tournament and the Canadian already wants to see their partnership continue beyond the grass-court season.

"It's really nice, he's probably the most energetic 57-year-old I know," said Raonic, a semifinalist at Wimbledon in 2014.

"We laugh. We also share a lot in common off court. He loves art as well, and he has a lot more experience in it than I do. We discuss that quite a bit."

It also appears to be working on court, with Raonic playing Roberto Bautista Agut on Friday in the Queen's Club quarterfinals. Unsurprisingly, coach McEnroe is urging 25-year-old Raonic to be more ag-

gressive.

"Most of the time (the talk) is about positioning on the volleys, where to be, especially when you see a guy maybe sort of off-balance or which angles to cover," Raonic said. "We have also worked a lot on being quick to realize opportunities to move forward or be aggressive earlier in points." With the partnership working on grass, Raonic wants to try it out on other surfaces. "When I brought John on and asked him if he would like to be a part of this project, there was never an intention of I want to just be better on grass," said Raonic.

"That was far from it. It was I wanted to take this time to improve considerably and it's the same things that I can incorporate and use on grass now, but I can incorporate and keep using



Canada's Milos Raonic makes a return to the Czech Republic's Jiri Vesely, during day four of the 2016 tennis Championships at The Queen's Club, London, Thursday June 16, 2016.

Associated Press

it on hard courts as well." Whether the American, a seven-time major title winner, will be able to commit the time is another matter,

but Raonic is not giving up. "He's got a pretty full plate, that's for sure," Raonic said. "He could be the most beneficial for me leading up

to tournaments and then sort of helping me throughout tournaments, whether that be from close or from afar." □

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Happy Father's Day

For Steph and LeBron, an ultimate game to decide NBA title

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — It's the two-time reigning Most Valuable Player who is trying to finish off a record-setting season with a second straight NBA title, against a two-time champion who is tantalizingly close to finally ending Cleveland's 52-year title drought. Steph vs. LeBron.

Warriors vs. Cavaliers.

Game 7 awaits on Sunday night to decide these NBA Finals, decide the legacy of the season that has been put together by Stephen Curry and Golden State, and maybe even decide a big chunk of LeBron James' legacy of his second time around in Cleveland, as well.

"I'll take it," James said.

"Forty-eight minutes left," Curry said.

This series is still going because James had his second consecutive 41-point game in Cleveland's 115-101 victory Thursday with the Cavaliers facing elimination again. He's the fifth player in NBA Finals history to post back-to-back games of 40 or more, alongside Jerry West, Shaquille O'Neal, Rick Barry and Michael Jordan.

He has answered the call when his team has needed him most. He even let Curry know how he felt with a little trash-talking after blocking a layup late in Game 6. "At the end of the day my whole mindset is how I



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) and Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) collide during the first half of Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland, Thursday, June 16, 2016.

can put myself in position to help these guys be successful and I could be successful as well," James said. "I don't really get caught up in what everybody else talks about."

And now it's on Curry to answer. He had 30 points in Game 6, but got into foul trouble again — the Warriors said some of the calls were flat wrong, and that will surely earn coach Steve Kerr a fine before Game 7 after he offered a very clear, impassioned plea that Curry wasn't get-

ting the sort of whistle that an MVP merits.

Curry got ejected after fouling out, throwing his mouthpiece and hitting a fan. He was trying to throw it at the scorer's table and missed, which strangely fit a night where the Warriors shot only 40 percent.

It won't be 1-on-1 Sunday night. But if the former MVP — who still very well may be the best player in the world — outduels the current MVP, the Larry O'Brien Trophy may be taking up occupancy in Cleveland

for the first time.

"He's had two great games to keep his team alive," Curry said. "You know, that's what he's supposed to do. I'm out there trying to do the same for my team. We don't go 1-on-1 at each other a lot, but it's a pretty competitive feeling out there with the situation of playing in The Finals and playing for something special."

It has been a series laden with epic swings in momentum, laden with blowouts and drama.

Every game has been decided by double digits in this series that is heading back to Oakland, California, for the ultimate showdown. There have been injuries on both sides; the Cavaliers lost Kevin Love for a game and a half earlier in the series with a concussion, the Warriors are without Andrew Bogut because of a left knee injury and saw Andre Iguodala

try to fight through a very balky back in Game 6.

Still, the Warriors — who have lost two straight for the second time all season — are somehow upbeat.

"We'll rally the troops," Kerr said. "We'll get everybody ready for Game 7. As I said, a home game to win the NBA title, it's as good as it gets. So we're excited to be flying home and get our fans behind us and we'll be ready to roll."

Pressure will squarely be on the Warriors.

They won a record 73 games in the regular season, losing only nine times. They've already lost eight games in these playoffs, and a ninth defeat would certainly take a ton of the shine off having the best record in NBA history.

"We expected to win the NBA championship coming into the season," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "It's either win the whole thing or bust for us. I mean, it's no fun getting second place. So it would be a great season, but at the same time to us, the players, we're so competitive, we'd feel like we failed."

To say there will be no pressure on the Cavaliers, though, would be incorrect. Sure, road teams are 3-15 all-time in Game 7s in the NBA Finals. But this is why James came back to Cleveland from Miami, to finish what he started, to give the city its first major sports title since 1964. If he delivers Sunday, the promise would be fulfilled and a new chapter could await. He's 1-0 in Game 7s in the NBA Finals, with Miami beating San Antonio in 2013. That was on what was then his home floor. The fact that this one will be on the road is irrelevant to James.

"Game 7," James said, "so I'll play it anywhere." □

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Colby Lewis loses no-hit bid in 9th, Rangers beat A's

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Colby Lewis lost his no-hit bid for Texas in the ninth inning when Max Muncy opened with a double that glanced off right fielder Nomar Mazara's glove Thursday in the Rangers' 5-1 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Lewis was perfect until walking Yonder Alonso with two outs in the eighth. Two batters after Muncy's hit, Lewis (6-0) lost his shut-out when left fielder Ryan Rua couldn't make a diving catch on a blooper by Coco Crisp that went for an RBI double.

Lewis walked one and struck out four in a two-hitter, matching the low-hit complete game of his big league career.

Daniel Mengden (0-2) allowed two runs — one earned — and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. He retired 15 straight batters before Ian Desmond homered leading off the seventh.

TIGERS 10, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Victor Martinez matched a career-best with three home runs as Detroit pounded six as a team in a win over Kansas City.

Martinez hit a pair of solo shots and Nick Castellanos went deep before James McCann homered off Royals reliever Luke Hoche-

var (1-1) leading off the seventh to knot the game 4-all. Cabrera followed moments later with a two-run shot that gave the Tigers their first lead of the game. Detroit added three more runs in the eighth before Martinez hit his third homer in the ninth. The veteran designated hitter's other three-homer game came on July 16, 2004, at Seattle. Justin Verlander (7-5) allowed four runs on eight hits over seven innings, continuing his mastery of the Royals at Kauffman Stadium. Verlander improved to 13-5 in 22 starts in the ballpark.

ORIOLES 5, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP) — Tyler Wilson allowed three hits over eight innings, Adam Jones added a home run and three RBIs, and Baltimore got its second series win against Boston this season. Baltimore scored three runs in the first four innings, then added two in fifth. The Orioles have hit 33 home runs in their last 13 games.

Wilson (3-5) was strong throughout striking out six. Pitching on an extra day of rest, he held Boston to one hit through six innings.

Eduardo Rodriguez (1-2) took the loss, lasting just 4 1/3 innings and giving up eight hits and five runs in his fourth start of the season.

BLUE JAYS 13, PHILLIES 2



Texas Rangers pitcher Colby Lewis works against the Oakland Athletics in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, June 16, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — J.A. Happ allowed three hits and an unearned run in seven innings and Toronto hit five home runs in a victory over Philadelphia.

Happ (8-3) struck out five in improving to 4-0 against his former team. It was the Blue Jays' third straight win over the Phillies and they have outscored them 31-7 in those games.

Kevin Pillar hit two homers and Edwin Encarnacion, Michael Saunders and Devon Travis added one

apiece for the Blue Jays, who set season marks with the five homers and 17 hits. Encarnacion hit his sixth homer in as many games and his 18th of the season in the first inning against Phillies starter Aaron Nola (5-6). Encarnacion has eight home runs and 21 RBIs in June.

YANKEES 4, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Didi Gregorius hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the seventh inning, CC Sabathia had another strong start

and New York stopped a four-game losing streak.

Fernando Abad relieved Twins starter Kyle Gibson (0-5) with one out in the seventh to face the left-handed Gregorius, after an infield single and a walk to start the inning. Abad, who had yet to allow a homer all season and took a 0.79 ERA into the game, threw a first-pitch fastball to Gregorius that landed in the right-field seats.

Gregorius is 6 for 11 with seven RBIs in his last three games. Lefties are batting just .125 (4 for 32) against Abad.

Sabathia (5-4) needing 116 pitches to complete six innings, but he struck out seven and retired the last five batters he faced. Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his 12th save in 13 attempts.

MARINERS 6, RAYS 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Dae-Ho Lee drove in three runs, James Paxton (1-2) gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings and Seattle avoided a three-game sweep.

Lee had an RBI single in a three-run first and drove in two with a double during the fourth.

Blake Snell, a 23-year-old Seattle native, was recalled from Triple-A Durham before the game and started for the Rays. □

Walker, Conforto return and back Colon as Mets beat Bucs 6-4

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Walker and Michael Conforto gave the Mets an immediate jolt in their return from nagging injuries, and Bartolo Colon pitched New York past Pittsburgh.

Curtis Granderson set a Mets record for leadoff homers, while Walker also went deep and had three RBIs against his former team after missing the previous three games with a sore lower back.

Conforto, who hadn't started since Saturday, landed right on his ailing left wrist when he saved a run with a sensational diving catch in the first inning. Showing

no ill effects, the left fielder followed Walker's two-run shot in the third inning with a home run of his own to end a 5-for-54 slump.

Colon (6-3) doubled and scored earlier in the inning on Yoenis Cespedes' deep sacrifice fly.

All three Mets homers came off Juan Nicasio (5-6), who gave up six runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

BRAVES 7, REDS 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Matt Wisler (3-7) allowed two runs and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings in his first win since May 20 at Philadelphia, ending a streak of four straight losing decisions.

A day after becoming the

first major leaguer this year to hit for the cycle, Freddie Freeman had three hits, including a two-run homer.

Dan Straily (4-3) allowed a season-high six runs, seven hits and three walks in 4 1/3 innings.

NATIONALS 8, PADRES 5

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Bryce Harper and Wilson Ramos hit back-to-back homers and Anthony Rendon added a solo shot as Washington won for the ninth time in 11 games.

Tanner Roark (6-4), who won his third straight against the Padres, worked six innings, surrendering four runs and seven hits. He walked two and struck out



New York Mets' Bartolo Colon hits a double during the third inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Thursday, June 16, 2016, in New York.

Associated Press

five. Shawn Kelley pitched the ninth for his second save in as many chances.

Erik Johnson (0-2), who was acquired from the Chicago

White Sox on June 4 in the deal for James Shields, struggled again. He was charged with five runs, seven hits and two walks over six innings. □

Dempsey, Zardes lead U.S. over Ecuador 2-1, into Copa semis

TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Another benchmark for the United States. Another huge goal for Clint Dempsey.

As unlikely as it seemed a few weeks ago, the U.S. is in the semifinals of the Copa America.

Dempsey scored for the third straight game and set up Gyasi Zardes for a tap-in goal, boosting the United States into the Copa America semifinals with a wild 2-1 win over Ecuador on Thursday night.

"Clint is special," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "He showed that tonight. He showed that the last couple of weeks. He showed that throughout his entire career."

Playing before a boisterous and almost completely partisan home crowd of 47,322 in the soccer-mad Pacific Northwest, the U.S. won a knockout game against a nation outside its region for only the second time other than in the CONCACAF Gold Cup. It will play Argentina or Venezuela on Tuesday in Houston.

And the Americans did it on the back of Dempsey, their fiery 33-year-old striker whose place on the U.S. team was debated early this year. Dempsey's 52nd international goal, five behind Landon Donovan's American record, put the U.S. ahead in the 22nd minute.

Zardes guided Dempsey's cross into the net in the 65th for his sixth goal and a 2-0 lead.

"I've been blessed that I was able to step up and, hopefully, I can keep going," Dempsey said. "I thought we played well. I thought we created some good chances in front of goal. We were unlucky not to score more."

Michael Arroyo scored for Ecuador in the 74th minute, making for a tense ending, and Enner Valencia missed a pair of great chances moments later on a pair of headers.

It was a chippy game that became costly for the U.S. American midfielder Jer-



United States' Gyasi Zardes, left, is greeted by Clint Dempsey, 8, after Zardes scored a goal against Ecuador in the second half of a Copa America Centenario quarterfinal soccer match, Thursday, June 16, 2016 at CenturyLink Field in Seattle. The United States beat Ecuador 2-1.

Associated Press

mainie Jones was shown a red card during a 52nd-minute confrontation that also saw Ecuador winger Antonio Valencia sent off after a second yellow card for a harsh tackle on Alejandro Bedoya along the sideline.

U.S. players immediately rushed in to the scrum after Valencia's tackle, and Jones raised an arm at Arroyo. Colombian referee Wilmar Roldan immediately showed a red card to Jones.

Klinsmann was irate at the red card, blaming the decision on fourth official Wilton Sampaio on the sideline.

"It was an absolute joke,"

Klinsmann said.

Jones will be suspended for the semifinal along with Bedoya and Bobby Wood, who both got their second yellow cards of the tournament.

Ecuador coach Gustavo Quinteros also appeared to be sent off in the 90th minute.

The only previous knockout win for the U.S. over a non-CONCACAF team was against Spain in the 2009 Confederations Cup semifinal. The only other U.S. appearance in the Copa semifinals was in 1995, when it advanced to the final four by beating Mexico, then was eliminated by

Brazil.

The Americans are now assured two more games in the tournament: the semifinal and either a third-place match or the final. The Argentina-Venezuela game is Saturday night, so the U.S. will have two extra days of rest.

After using the same lineup in the first three games — the first time the U.S. did that in three consecutive matches since 1930 — Klinsmann had to make a shift due to the red card picked up by right back DeAndre Yedlin against Paraguay that caused the speedy youngster to miss a chance to play back in his home-

town. Klinsmann inserted Matt Besler at left back and flopped Fabian Johnson to fill Yedlin's spot on the right side.

Dempsey appeared energized playing in the home stadium of his Seattle Sounders, and his header provided the U.S. a chance to relax. Wood was tremendous all night, getting behind the defense and holding the ball up to provide chances on the attack.

On the first goal, Dempsey played the ball ahead to Wood, who dribbled and then passed to Jones. He crossed into the penalty area, where Dempsey — who had been knocked down and recovered — completed his run from midfield and split defenders to the ball, directing it to the corner of the net past goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez from 8 yards.

The second goal was also a result of Wood playing the ball back. Brooks sent a long ball to Wood, and his pass to Besler was crossed to Zardes in the area.

His headed pass found Dempsey, who was able to slide the ball across the mouth of the goal for Zardes to poke in.

"I had to bury it, just to make sure," Zardes said. "It's that striker mentality."

After that, the Americans tired in the wide-open play, and Ecuador turned up pressure. Arroyo's goal came off Walter Ayovi's free kick from a flank. □

Kerber loses her title as upsets continue in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, England

(AP) — Angelique Kerber became another in a sequence of leading players to have their Wimbledon preparations cut short when she lost her title in a dramatic quarter-final defeat in the Aegon Classic. The second-seeded German was beaten 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 by Carla Suarez Navarro, the world number 16 from Spain, despite a fine fightback

in which Kerber appeared to have regained the momentum during a final set in

which she was three times within two points of victory. Navarro however appeared to

last a physically very tough match the better after a schedule in which both players had to complete second round matches earlier in the day.

"I had to fight and play my best to beat the best player,"

Navarro said, even though Kerber has often found it had to rediscover her best after her sensational Grand Slam triumph in Australia at

the start of the year.

Here today she was at least much nearer her tenacious, intelligent and athletic best. "I didn't defend my title but I have played well,"

Kerber said, though she looked very disappointed by her loss.

"She (Navarro) started very good but I came back well and it will give me confidence going into Wimbledon (in 10 days)."

That may not be the case for Agnieszka Radwanska, the top-seeded Pole,

or Petra Kvitova, the two times Wimbledon champion, or Belinda Bencic, the 19-year-old who is the youngest in the world's top ten, who were among six seeds who failed to reach the quarter-finals amidst continuously disruptive rainstorms.

Navarro tomorrow plays the only remaining seed, Madison Keys, the top 20 American who recovered from a wayward start to overcome Jelena Ostapenko, Kvitova's conqueror, by 6-7(1-7), 6-4, 6-2. □

VR the latest new high-tech way to watch sports

BY RACHEL COHEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) -- Sports fans who own the right devices can follow the action at a major event this week in a new, high-tech way. If that sounds vaguely familiar, networks were embarking on similar experiments in 3-D half a decade ago. Now virtual reality is the latest craze, and Fox Sports is offering VR streams from the U.S. Open at Oakmont. Some of the technology in VR - and some of the people working behind the scenes - come from those short-lived 3-D productions, which never caught on widely among television viewers at home. For the companies betting that VR will be different, part of the pitch for now is that it's not intended to supplant that high-definition broadcast on a giant flat-screen TV audiences seem quite happy with.

"It's not meant to be and we're not producing it as a replacement," said David Nathanson, Fox Sports' head of business operations.

"Complementary" is the buzzword for the time being. The idea is that fans will still mainly watch the event on their television sets, but they'll use VR for enhancements: game recaps, highlights of a particular play, features, brief forays into watching a certain portion of the action live.

As part of Fox's five-year deal with NextVR, cameras at Oakmont will be positioned at the ninth, 17th and 18th holes, with roving capability at the neighboring Nos. 10 and 12. There will also be pre-packaged video on demand, including footage of players on the practice range each morning, a narrated history of Oakmont, two-minute "golf tips" and features on each hole. The coverage is available through the NextVR app for Samsung Gear VR owners.

Virtual reality still faces some of the same challenges that hindered 3-D. Viewers need to buy special equipment to view the broadcast, and even once

they do, they might decide they find the devices too inconvenient and cumbersome to wear regularly. The future of VR in general will likely depend on how much - and how quickly - both the price and the unwieldiness of the hardware decrease.

"Today the equipment is kind of like the original cellphone in a bulky briefcase," Nathanson said. The other necessary technological advance is the quality of the picture. For now, there's a major trade-off in the crispness of the image from HD to gain the sensation of watching from the front row.

Brad Allen, executive chairman of NextVR, said the motivation for cellphone manufacturers to invest in virtual reality will speed the process along, as they look to add functions that will lure customers to keep buying new devices.

"It's moving much faster than everybody, including ourselves, even anticipated, which is fantastic," Allen said.

The potential audience is still small for virtual reality, but for now Fox's motivations have little to do with the current number of viewers. Oculus has said about 1 million people used the Gear VR in April for an average of 25 minutes per day.

Fox views its present VR investment as a head start of sorts if the technology does catch on. These broadcasts offer the opportunity to start to figure out how VR might work best. Where are cameras best placed? Do viewers want a producer to cut between shots as would happen on a traditional telecast? What's the role of graphics and commentary?

"We make no bones about the fact this is a learning experience for us," said Michael Davies, Fox Sports' senior vice president of field and technical operations. "We don't say this is one of those things that's done and dusted and polished."



High-definition VR cameras are set up on the 18th tee during a practice round for the U.S. Open golf championship at Oakmont Country Club on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, in Oakmont, Pa.

Associated Press



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Stocks end week lower as British vote remains focus

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks closed out a difficult week on a modestly lower note Friday, as investors continued to monitor Britain's frenzied debate on whether to leave the European Union. The debate took on a new level of concern after the killing of a member of parliament.

Technology stocks were among the biggest decliners. Apple fell as a patent dispute in China threatened to jeopardize futures sales of iPhones in the world's second-largest economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 57.94 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,675.16. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 6.77 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,071.22 and the Nasdaq composite fell 44.58 points, or 0.9 percent, to 4,800.34. Anxiety over the British referendum coming up next Thursday contin-

ued to dominate trading. Stocks have fallen six out of the past seven trading days. This week the Dow and S&P 500 each lost 1 percent while the Nasdaq gave up almost 2 percent. The campaigning in Britain became heated this week, and took an alarming turn when a well-regarded politician in favor of staying in the EU was killed. Polls have been tight or have shown, on occasion, a slight likelihood that Britain could leave the EU. Many have predicted that could harm the British economy.

Investors interpreted the assassination as something that could sway more voters to stay in the EU. U.K. and European stocks and the British pound rose against the euro and dollar. The pound rose to \$1.4375 compared with \$1.4205 the day before.

"This tragic event may have dampened the 'leave' campaign's momentum



Trader Tommy Kalikas works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, June 17, 2016. U.S. stocks closed out a difficult week on a modestly lower note Friday, as investors continued to monitor Britain's frenzied debate on whether to leave the EU.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

somewhat," said Daniel Vernazza, analyst at UniCredit bank. He noted the movement in the pound was the most significant

indicator that investors believe this would be positive for the 'remain' campaign. In other European trading, Germany's DAX index rose 0.8 percent, France's CAC-40 rose 1 percent and the U.K.'s FTSE 100 index rose 1.2 percent.

Technology giant Apple fell \$2.22, or 2.3 percent, to \$95.33 after Chinese officials ruled that Apple infringed on a patent of a major competitor, which could cause iPhone sales

to be suspended in the country.

Elizabeth Arden rose \$4.57, or 49 percent, to \$13.88 after hair and makeup company Revlon said it would buy the company for \$14 a share, or \$419.3 million.

Benchmark U.S. crude added \$1.77 to close at \$47.98 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained \$1.98 to close at \$49.17 a barrel in London. □



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US Lumber Liquidators probe ends

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal regulators have closed an investigation of Lumber Liquidators after the company agreed not to resume sales of Chinese-made laminate flooring.

Shares of Lumber Liquidators soared more than 16 percent Friday morning.

The Toano, Virginia, company stopped selling the Chinese-made laminate flooring last year, a couple of months after a news report on "60 Minutes" said it contained high levels of the carcinogen formaldehyde.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said late Thursday that Lumber Liquidators tested the air quality in 17,000 households and none had formaldehyde above

guidelines.

Customers who installed the Chinese-made flooring should not rip it out, the CPSC said. Instead, they can call Lumber Liquidators to have their air tested. Lumber Liquidators has agreed to continue to test the air quality of homes for people that bought the flooring. The company will pay for removal of floors or any other changes needed if formaldehyde is detected at unsafe levels.

About 614,000 people bought the Chinese-made laminate flooring from 2011 to 2015, the CPSC said.

The CPSC found that high levels of formaldehyde from the floors may cause eye, throat and nose irritation. □

Patent dispute could block Apple's iPhone 6 sales in Beijing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is embroiled in a patent dispute in China that threatens to block future sales of the iPhone 6 in Beijing unless the company can overturn a regulator's recent ruling. The potential ban stems from a decision issued last month by the Beijing Intel-

lectual Property Office. The agency found the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus infringed on a patent for the exterior design of a smartphone called the 100C made by a Chinese company, Shenzhen Baili. Apple Inc. is still being allowed to sell both of the affected iPhone models

while it appeals the ruling to an intellectual property court in China. If it loses, Apple could be forbidden from selling some of its most profitable iPhones in China's capital at a time when sales of the entire iPhone line have already been declining. The downturn is the main

reason that Apple's stock has fallen by 9 percent so far this year while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has edged up by 1 percent. Apple's shares dropped \$2.10, or about 2 percent, to \$94.45 in Friday's late afternoon trading. The patent dispute is Apple's latest headache in

China, the company's second biggest source of revenue after the U.S. and one of its fastest growing markets. China accounted for 26 percent, or \$61 billion, of Apple's revenue last year, up from 12 percent in 2011, based on calculations by RBC Capital Markets analyst Amit Daryanani. □

Viacom CEO's tenure may be up soon after board shake-up



Viacom Inc. CEO Philippe Dauman waits for the start of an event in Washington. Sumner Redstone's family theater company said this week it has replaced five directors from Viacom's 11-member board, including Dauman, and filed court papers in Delaware to defend its actions.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Viacom CEO Philippe Dauman may not have much time left at the entertainment conglomerate. National Amusements, the theater company through which Sumner Redstone controls both Viacom and CBS, said this week that it has replaced Dauman and

four other directors on Viacom's 11-member board. The shake-up comes as lawyers battle over whether Redstone, 93, is mentally competent to run the multibillion-dollar New York-based media companies Viacom Inc. and CBS Corp. Frederic Salerno, the lead independent director who was among those ousted, said in a statement the

move was "brazen and demonstrably invalid." He pinned it on Redstone's daughter, Shari. Salerno contends she is manipulating her father in a bid to control his empire upon his death. National Amusements filed papers with a Delaware court to reaffirm the move, to which Salerno immediately responded with filings

of his own. National Amusements asked the court to keep the current board — including the ousted directors — temporarily in place and prohibit it from taking any unusual actions until a final judgment. The company also hinted that Dauman's CEO job was on the line, although he keeps it for now. National Amusements said it will be up to the new board to "take whatever steps it deems appropriate" to ensure "strong, independent and effective leadership." Dauman, the third highest-paid CEO in America last year, has been criticized by analysts and investors alike for failing to keep up with changes wrought by the internet on Viacom's TV networks like Comedy Central, MTV and Nickelodeon. Viacom shares jumped nearly 7 percent Thursday, but are still down 49 percent from their all-time highest close of \$88.90 in March 2014. Among the new directors are BuzzFeed Chairman Kenneth Lerer; former Discovery Communications CEO Judith McHale; for-

mer DreamWorks SKG co-CEO Ronald Nelson and former Sony Entertainment President Nicole Seligman. Along with Dauman, George Abrams and Salerno, board members Blythe McGarvie and William Schwartz were removed. SpringOwl Asset Management LLC, a small minority shareholder that slammed Viacom management in a January presentation, said in a statement "the board has been significantly upgraded," and it continued to press for Dauman's removal. The Redstone saga has been dragging on for months and became highly public in November after he booted ex-girlfriend Manuela Herzer from his home and she sued to be reinstated as his health care proxy. Her case continues to roil through the courts. Dauman and Abrams also brought a suit in a Massachusetts probate court last month asking to be reinstated to their roles on both National Amusements and the Redstone family trust after being stripped of their positions. □

Prosecutors drop drug trafficking case against FedEx

S. THANAWALA
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A criminal trial alleging FedEx knowingly delivered illegal prescription drugs to dealers and addicts ended suddenly on Friday when prosecutors moved to dismiss all charges against the shipping giant. U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco granted the request in a two-page order that

did not indicate why prosecutors had decided to drop the case. The trial began on Monday. The U.S. Attorney's Office confirmed in a statement that it had asked Breyer to dismiss the indictment but also did not say why. The office would have no additional comment, spokesman Abraham Simmons said. FedEx spokesman Patrick Fitzgerald said in a statement the company

has always been innocent and the case should never have been brought. "The government should take a very hard look at how they made the tremendously poor decision to file these charges," he said. "Many companies would not have had the courage or the resources to defend themselves against false charges." FedEx attorneys had said before the trial that two Drug Enforcement

Administration officials who regularly talked to the company were willing to testify that they never told FedEx to stop shipping for any online pharmacies. The trial — nearly two years in the making — was unusual in part because of the government's decision to bring drug charges against a package delivery company. In the early 2000s, prosecutors claimed, Memphis, Tennessee-based Fe-

dEx began conspiring with two internet pharmacy organizations to ship powerful sleep aids, sedatives, painkillers and other drugs to customers who had not been physically examined by a doctor. The crux of the government's case was that FedEx knew the drugs were illegal and headed for dealers and addicts, some of whom died, but delivered them anyway. □

Mutts



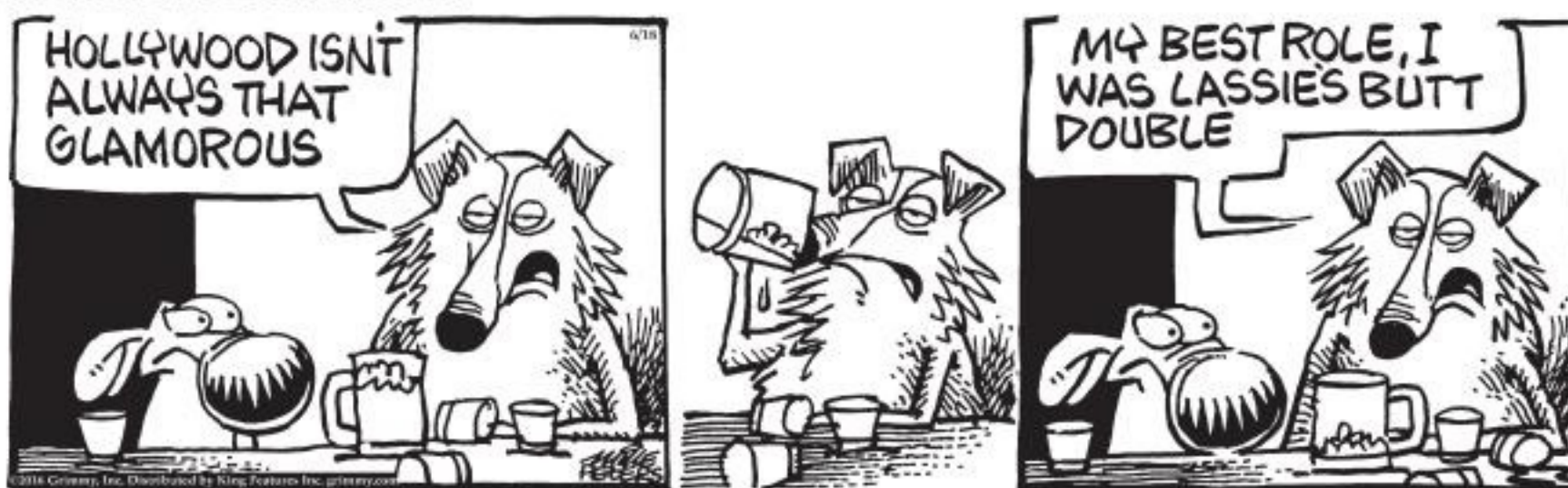
6 Chix



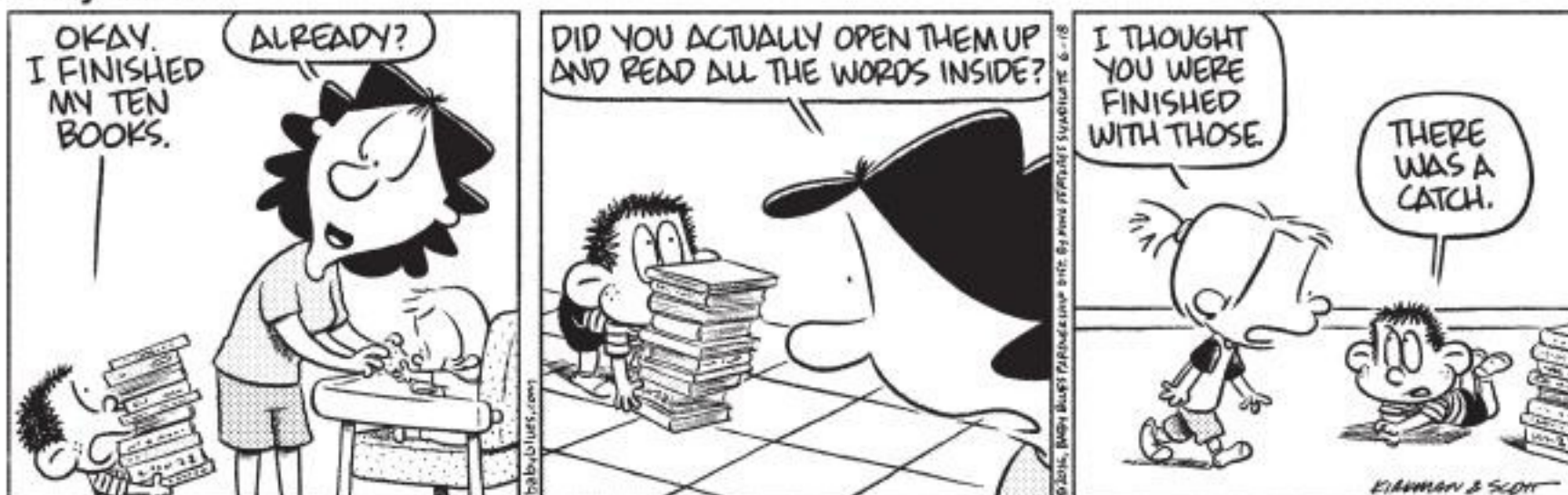
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7	9				8	4
			7			
	4			5		6
		3	6	1		
	9					5
			2	8	1	
	3		9			2
			1			
1	6				3	5

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

6/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

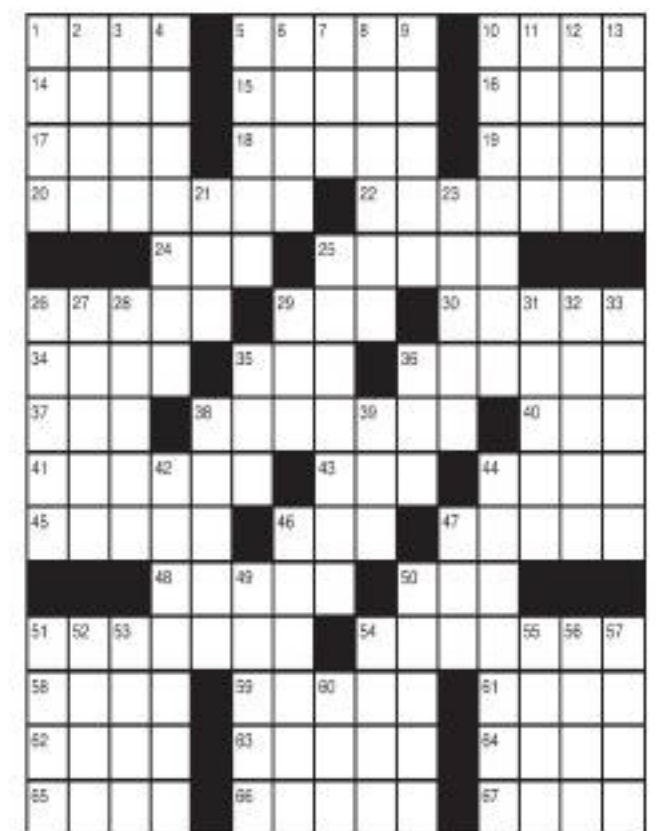
6	9	3	7	5	1	8	2	4
8	2	7	6	3	4	5	9	1
5	1	4	9	8	2	7	3	6
1	4	2	5	7	3	9	6	8
3	5	9	1	6	8	4	7	2
7	8	6	4	2	9	3	1	5
9	6	5	2	4	7	1	8	3
4	7	8	3	1	6	2	5	9
2	3	1	8	9	5	6	4	7

ACROSS

- 1 Morose; dismal
- 5 In a very unfriendly way
- 10 Caramel-topped custard
- 14 At _; relaxed
- 15 AM/FM device
- 16 Take a fancy to
- 17 _ up; bound
- 18 Gin rummy term
- 19 Leave out
- 20 Long steps
- 22 Diane and Michael
- 24 Help
- 25 Hollers
- 26 Diminish
- 29 One of JFK's brothers
- 30 Shoestrings
- 34 Laundry soap
- 35 Tiny vegetable
- 36 Lime juice cocktail
- 37 Strange
- 38 Actor Chaplin
- 40 "You _ what you eat"
- 41 Hungry for
- 43 Egg drink
- 44 Brief haircut
- 45 Concluded
- 46 Bumped into
- 47 Creates
- 48 Dinner course
- 50 Poke
- 51 Modified
- 54 Soft drink
- 58 Hideaway
- 59 Not clear, as an idea
- 61 Of sound mind
- 62 Gritty residue
- 63 _ board; item in a manicure kit
- 64 Give a traffic ticket to
- 65 Some of Keats' poems
- 66 Rocky ridges
- 67 Stench
- 25 Longed
- 26 Make amends
- 27 Obama's VP
- 28 _ up; tallied
- 29 Actress Leoni
- 31 Actor _ Gregg
- 32 Spine-chilling
- 33 Flower stalks
- 35 Advanced deg.
- 36 Musician's stint

DOWN

- 1 Understands
- 2 Café au _



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

6/18/16

Friday's Puzzle Solved

NUDE	SWINE	SHUT
APES	TOTAL	TOGO
TOGS	ORIGINALLY	
ONE	EATS	OBEYS
	NORTH	LOL
SHEARS	RENEWS	
PARTS	ALIAS	RAM
EVAS	BLOCK	SAFE
WET	FILTH	HOPED
	NEARBY	MOLARS
	LIS	LONER
SHALL	HARK	OAK
LOVELINESS	CUBE	
AWAY	TERSE	ONLY
MESS	STOOL	ODES

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6/18/16

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 38 Fragrant wood | 51 Additionally |
| 39 Building site | 52 _-back; |
| 42 Gobi & Sahara | relaxed |
| 44 Hot sauce | 53 Flooring piece |
| 46 French señora | 54 Ride the waves |
| 47 Furious | 55 _ for; bought |
| 49 Crowbar | 56 Hold _; keep |
| 50 Baby kangaroos | 57 One's equal |
| | 60 Seventh letter |

Orlando tourism expert: No mass cancellations yet; future is unsure

Experts say it's too soon to gauge whether a week of horrific news out of Orlando will hurt tourism there. But travel agents are not seeing widespread cancellations, and many travelers say they're committed to visiting. "I had more people worrying last year about, 'Should I postpone my trip because of Ebola?'" than are worried about going to Orlando, said Cindy Minor, owner of Small World Big Fun, a travel agency specializing in Disney vacations based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Orlando has been rocked in the past week by three events: the mass murder of 49 people in a nightclub, the fatal shooting of singer Christina Grimmie after a concert, and a 2-year-old killed by an alligator at a Disney World resort lagoon. It remains to be seen whether the bad news will shake Orlando's status as the top tourist destination in the U.S., with 66 million visitors in 2015.

"Not one person has said, 'Put the trip off,' or 'We were thinking about it but we want to wait,'" Minor said. For many travelers, she added, the choice comes down to this: "Are you going to sit and be scared in your house? Or are you going to live your life and make memories with your family?"

Karen L. Brown of Glasgow, Scotland, was among many who posted hearts on Visit Orlando's Facebook page. She and her extended family of six pledged to stick with plans for a 2017 Orlando trip. "We love everything Orlando," she said in an email. "I haven't even considered cancelling." Lori Pennington-Gray, a professor at the University of Florida's Tourism Crisis Management Initiative, said travelers who've already booked trips "may be less inclined to cancel" than those who "are still deciding where to go" later this year.

"Disney is one of those big trips where it's quite costly, it's an important family proposition, and it's not something someone who

has saved up all year for may be willing to walk away from," she said.

Travelers who do cancel trips may or may not get refunds, depending on how they booked. Airlines typically levy steep cancellation fees, but theme park tickets may be refundable, especially if purchased as a package deal and cancelled 30 days ahead of the reservations. Ray Bromley, who teaches city and regional planning at the State University of New York at Albany, agreed that the biggest impact may be in future bookings as travelers weigh alternative destinations, including California's Disneyland. Bromley predicts Orlando tourism will take a hit of 5 to 15 percent over the next year, with hotels and attractions discounting to spur demand.

For now, though, airfares have held steady. "We are not seeing any fire sales to Orlando, although fares in general have been quite reasonable," said Airfare-Watchdog.com founder George Hobica. Pennington-Gray said future bookings partly depend on "the response by the destination and the tourism industry to reinforce what they're doing to keep visitors safe. If they can do that effectively, they can minimize the impact." □

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NASA spacecraft barreling toward Jupiter for July 4 meetup

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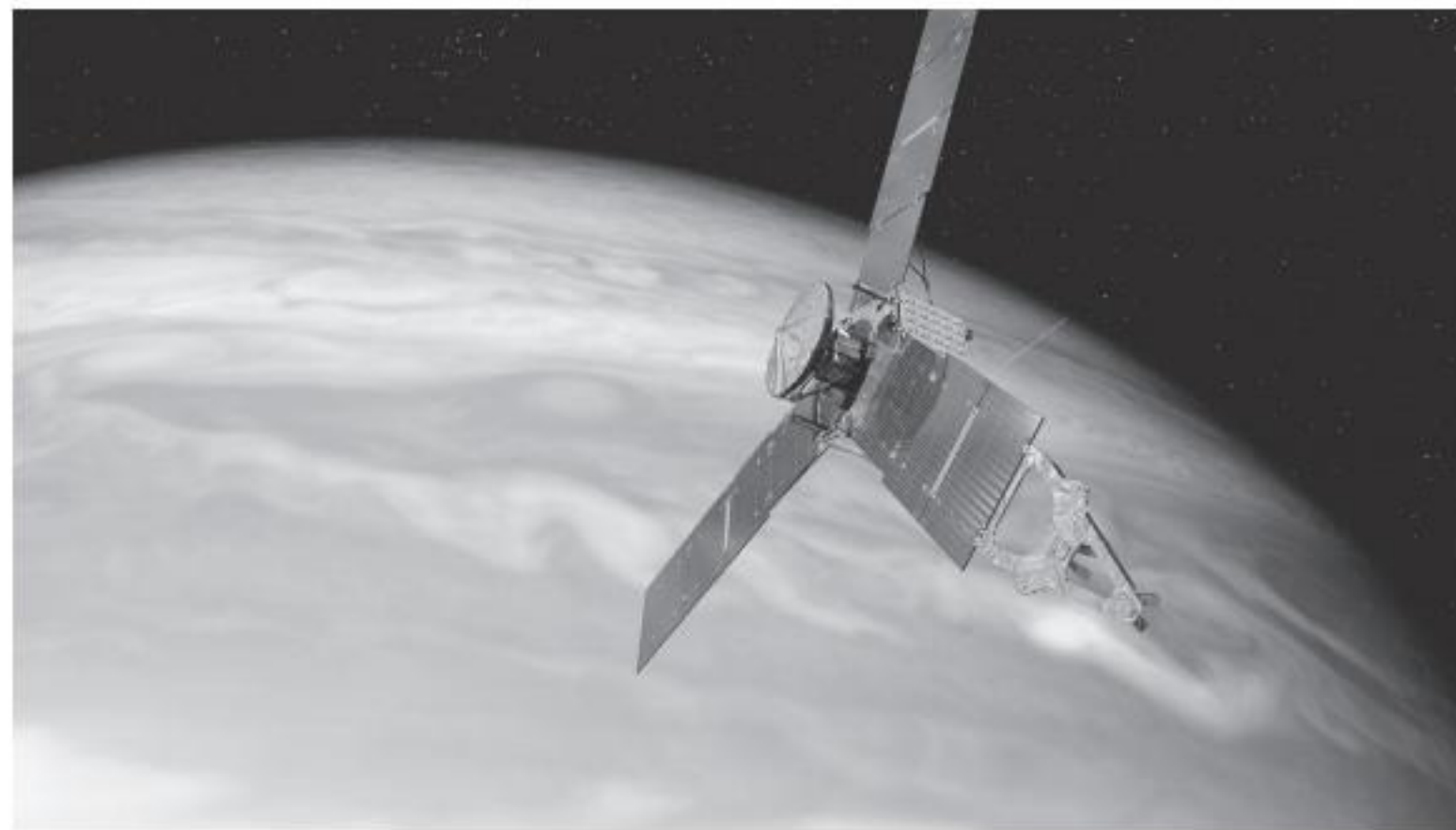
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A NASA spacecraft is bound for a Fourth of July encounter with Jupiter in the latest quest to study how the largest planet in the solar system formed and evolved.

As Juno approaches Jupiter's harsh radiation environment, it will fire its main engine to slow down and then slip into orbit around the planet.

"It's a one-shot deal," mission chief scientist Scott Bolton from the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, said Thursday. "Everything is riding on it."

If all goes as planned, Juno will spend nearly a year



This artist's rendering made available by NASA/JPL-Caltech on July 7, 2015 shows the Juno spacecraft above Jupiter.

circling Jupiter's poles and peering through clouds to scrutinize the planet's southern and northern

lights, which are considered the strongest in the solar system.

"Jupiter is a planet on ste-

roids. Everything about it is extreme," Bolton said during a briefing for reporters from NASA headquarters in Washington.

Since the 1970s, spacecraft have circled or zipped past Jupiter, sending back stunning views of the planet's signature Great Red Spot — a long-lived storm — and its numerous moons. The most extensive study came from the Galileo spacecraft, which dropped a probe on the surface. Galileo explored Jupiter and its moons for 14 years.

Unlike Earth, which is a rocky planet, Jupiter is a gas giant made up mostly of hydrogen and helium. Scientists still don't know whether Jupiter has a solid

core or how much oxygen and water the planet has — information that could help unravel how Earth and the solar system came to be.

The trip to Jupiter — the fifth planet from the sun — took nearly five years, allowing Juno to loop around the inner solar system and use Earth as a gravitational slingshot to propel itself into deep space.

Previous missions to Jupiter have relied on nuclear power sources because of the distance from the sun. Juno is running on solar power, with three huge panels designed to face the sun during most of the mission. The wings are 29 feet long and 9 feet wide. Juno will be about 500 million miles from the sun on the evening of July 4 when it prepares to enter orbit.

To protect against radiation, Juno's instruments are tucked inside a titanium vault. The spacecraft also carries a camera and scientists said the public will get a chance to decide what pictures to take.

After Juno completes its mission in 2018, it will plunge into Jupiter and burn up. Scientists planned this finale to eliminate the possibility it could smack into Europa, one of Jupiter's watery moons. □

Scientists discover largest planet orbiting 2 suns to date

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Astronomers say they have discovered the largest planet outside the solar system that orbits two suns.

The newfound world, about the size of Jupiter, is 3,700 light-years from Earth. A light-year is nearly 6 trillion miles.

It was detected by a team led by NASA and San Diego State University using the planet-hunting Kepler telescope. The discovery was announced Monday

during a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in San Diego.

Although the planet is in the habitable zone — where water that is crucial to life can be liquid — it's not a good candidate to support life because it's so big, scientists said.

"It's a bit curious that this biggest planet took so long to confirm since it is easier to find big planets than small ones," San Diego State astronomer Jerome

Orosz said in a statement. Planets that circle a pair of suns are nicknamed "Tatooine" after the fictional body in the "Star Wars" films that boasts a double sunset. In 2011, scientists found the first Tatooine planet — a world about the size of Saturn 200 light-years from Earth.

NASA launched Kepler in 2009 to search for planets — mainly Earth-like planets — outside the solar system. □

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Lin-Manuel Miranda leaving 'Hamilton' July 9; vows to return

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The news that no die-hard "Hamilton" fan — or anyone who hasn't seen the Broadway smash yet — wants to hear has arrived: Lin-Manuel Miranda, its creator and star, is leaving the show this summer. But he promises to return "again and again." Miranda, who has been in the show since it made its debut off-Broadway in early 2015, said Thursday he will perform his last show July 9. Javier Munoz, the current understudy for Alexander Hamilton, who also took over from Miranda in "In the Heights," will take over July 11. But Miranda said he will happily return to the show from time to time and RadicalMedia plans to film the original cast performing the show at the end of June and will, at some point, make it available. "We are aware that history has its

eyes on us," said Miranda. "For people who will say, 'But I'll never see Lin as Hamilton!' — yes, you will," Miranda said in an Irish pub in his Washington Heights neighborhood. "I have written this insane part that I can't seem to get tired of, that is new every night... I think this is a role I will be going back to again and again. I know it feels like the end of the world to a very small number of people now, but I plan to revisit this role a lot." He'll also be offering fans a chance to see his final July 9th bow for just \$10. Fans who donate just \$10 to the Hispanic Federation will be entered to win two tickets to his last performance, an invitation to the after-party and airfare and hotel for those living outside of New York City. It's being organized through Prizeo. Miranda, who said he's itching to cut the long hair he's grown for the show,



Lin-Manuel Miranda arrives at the Tony Awards at the Beacon Theatre on Sunday, June 12, 2016, in New York.

Associated Press

has already lined up plenty of work after he leaves. He has a lead role opposite Emily Blunt in a film sequel of "Mary Poppins" directed by Rob Marshall and with songs by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, the composers of "Hairspray." Miranda will also help turn his musical "In the Heights" into a movie. He has written music for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and the upcoming animated feature in Disney's "Moana," a musical, animated tale about a Polynesian princess that comes out in November.

Munoz, who has been with the show since it debuted off-Broadway in 2015, said his taking over won't have too much effect on the show. "If anything, it's personal," he said. "We're losing our guy, right? Our friend, the guy we love, is not going to be in the building as often. It's like camp. You get to the end of summer and you become pen pals."

Miranda also revealed he has launched a merchandise site called Tee-Rico that will sell fan art inspired by Miranda's work. Currently, it is selling a T-shirt printed with part of his sonnet he delivered at the Tony Awards, dedicated to the dead in the Orlando nightclub shooting. All proceeds from it will benefit Equality Cares in Florida.

"Hamilton," which cast minority actors as Founding Fathers, burst through the Broadway bubble like few shows.

Singer Meat Loaf collapses during concert in Canada

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Rock singer Meat Loaf collapsed on stage during a concert in Edmonton, Alberta, on Thursday night and was taken to a hospital. A statement on the 68-year-old's Facebook profile later said he had suffered severe dehydration but is "expecting a speedy and full recovery." "His vital signs are stable and normal — additional

tests are being performed but he is responsive and recovering well," the statement said. Meat Loaf had canceled two other concerts in recent days — in Moose Jaw on Saturday and in Calgary on Tuesday — citing ill health. A video of the performance at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium showed the singer dropping his mi-

crophone and falling to the floor amid a performance of his classic "I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)." Musicians went to his side to help, and the music eventually stopped. Attendees were asked to vacate the arena, concertgoer Mikey McBryan said. Meat Loaf had appeared to be struggling earlier in the performance, McBryan, 33, said.



This June 21, 2010, file photo shows rock singer Meatloaf on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange before ringing the opening bell.

Associated Press



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Dwayne Johnson, left, and Kevin Hart in a scene from, "Central Intelligence."

Associated Press

Review: Johnson, Hart light up 'Central Intelligence'

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

"Central Intelligence," a buddy action-comedy starring Kevin Hart and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, doesn't pack many big laughs, but it is likely to keep a smile on your face for the duration.

That's largely because of the charisma of its two leads, who wholly embrace the earnest goofiness of Ike Barinholtz and David Stassen's ("The Mindy Project") story about two guys at the opposite ends of the high school hierarchy. There's more to it than that, but at its heart — and yes, this movie has a big, beating heart — this story centers on a high school prince who grows up to be an ordinary guy (Hart's Calvin Joyner) and the overweight outcast who sheds his flab and becomes exceptional (Johnson's Bob Stone) and what they learn from one another. Seriously!

The movie, from "We're The Millers" director Rawson Marshall Thurber, who also has a script credit, opens on a flashback of a 1996 high school pep rally where Calvin offers an act of kindness to his less fortunate classmate when ev-

eryone else just sits there and laughs. Cut to 20 years later and "most likely to succeed" Calvin is married to his high school girlfriend (Danielle Nicolet) and working as a midlevel accountant who's just been passed over for a promotion that his former assistant gets instead. It's the eve of their high school reunion and he'd rather not go at all. He's feeling a little too average for the "what are you doing now" small talk. That's when Bob comes back into his life. A random friend request from a mysterious fellow who claims to like guns, pancakes and unicorns, followed by a few enthusiastic Facebook messages, lead to the two getting together for drinks. Bob is not the 300-pound pariah anymore. He's The Rock. And yet, despite the exterior upgrade, though, he's still an affable dweeb at heart, rocking a fanny pack, jean shorts, a unicorn t-shirt. He's genuinely thrilled to be hanging out with Calvin, too.

It just so happens that Bob is also a super spy who is on the run from his fellow CIA agents for mysterious reasons. Calvin, of course, gets entangled in all of this,

bringing the requisite wide-eyed WTF perspective needed in this sort of over-the-top comedy.

Again, it's the actors who really bring "Central Intelligence" home. One of Johnson's great onscreen strengths is that he has a believable softness to him that belies his hard shell, even in his more hardcore roles. Here, that high-wattage charisma is turned up to 11. He's almost daring you not to smile along with him. Hart, in the straight man role, gets to flex some muscles that not many comedies ask of him — relative subtlety. For a man who displays such unwavering confidence most of the time, Hart's Calvin is like a less depressed Louis C.K. In some past life, this might have even been a Steve Martin role. "Central Intelligence" also boasts an impressive roster of cameos and bit parts from comedians like "Silicon Valley's" Kumail Nanjiani and a few others that I won't spoil here. The plot is pretty silly and not worth much discussion, although in its nearly two-hour runtime, some scenes drag on interminably and bits start to feel a little repetitive.

Ricky Gervais to return to 'The Office' for Netflix movie

NEW YORK (AP) — Ricky Gervais is reopening "The Office" for a spinoff movie to stream on Netflix.

The service announced Thursday that it has acquired the film, in which Gervais will reprise the painfully awkward David Brent. In "David Brent: Life on the Road," a documentary crew catches up with the former boss 12 years after "The Office." Brent is now a traveling salesman pursuing his rock 'n' roll dreams with his band Foregone Conclusion.

The film will premiere in most counties on Netflix next year, but will receive a theatrical release in August in the U.K., Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

Gervais, who recently re-



In this April 22, 2016 file photo, Ricky Gervais attends Tribeca Talks After the Movie: "Special Correspondents" during the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Associated Press

leased his film "Special Correspondents" with Netflix, said he's "so glad the mighty Netflix have once

again outbid all competitors in North America to show my movie exclusively."

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
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SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:55 | 9:30

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MON-THURS 3:45 | 6:25 | 9:05
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JESSE EISENBERG | MARK RUFFALO
NOW YOU SEE ME 2
MON-FRI 3:55 | 6:20 | 9:10
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THE CONJURING 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:05 | 6:30 | 9:20
FRI 4:05 | 6:30 | 9:20 | 11:05
SAT 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20 | 11:05
SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20

EMILIA CLARKE | SAM CLAFUN
me before you
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 9:10
FRI-SAT 9:10 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 9:10

MEGAN FOX | WILL ARNETT
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Neko Case, k.d. lang and Laura Veirs overcome obstacles

DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Since she sang with the late Roy Orbison, k.d. lang dreamed of forming her own version of the Traveling Wilburys, his supergroup with Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne. When she proposed the idea to Neko Case and Laura Veirs in an email, they responded enthusiastically within a half hour.

Then came time to make it a reality.

That's when they learned how hard it was for three singer-songwriters used to being in charge of their own careers to work in true collaboration. Their 14-song disc came out Friday.

While the Wilburys' two albums 25 years ago had the tossed-off feeling of rock stars on a lark, the "case/lang/veirs" disc reflects a determination to make something worthy of their talents, no matter whose egos were bruised.

"We all agreed that we were going to be brutally honest and we just wanted to make something really good that had to be a part of all of us, even if that was



Singer-songwriters, from left, Laura Veirs, k.d. lang and Neko Case pose for a photo in Portland, Ore., Thursday, June 16, 2016. The three singer-songwriters released a new album, "case/lang/veirs," on Friday.

painful for some people," Case said. "Actually, it was for all of us at some point. Letting go of control when you're a control freak is really difficult."

They set some ground rules at the beginning. They agreed each song would be original — no covers. And while the singers trade lines and harmonize on the

opening "Atomic Number" and "I Want to Be Home," most songs feature a clear lead with one or both of the others as backups.

The song "Honey and Smoke" feels like a classic seductive lang song with a skittering guitar figure. The others achieve their goal of sounding like they're from a band instead of a solo artist.

Case and lang, and their booming voices, are fairly well known. Veirs, who jokes about making nine albums in obscurity, emerged as the trio's workhorse. She's listed as a writer on all 14 songs, four of them solo compositions. Her husband, Tucker Martine, was the producer.

Veirs and lang, who both live in the Portland, Oregon

area, got together at first to write. Case has roots in the Northwest but lives now in Vermont, so she joined later. "I was kind of the pollinator and they were the big, gorgeous apple trees," she said.

Each had individual strengths that worked for the group. Veirs, a skillful guitarist and more prolific writer than the others, put more energy into the writing. Her colleagues admired lang's perfect pitch and ease working with other musicians. Case brought spontaneity; while the others were used to having things nailed down in demos, she encouraged more flexibility.

Veirs recalled bringing "Atomic Number" to the group as a finished song. The others tossed out most of the lyrics and started writing something new.

For someone used to writing songs alone in her room, "my fur got ruffled, for sure," Veirs said. But she had to acknowledge it was better — certainly different. She learned songs are more malleable than she thought.

Associated Press

Grammys to include streaming-only tracks, more changes

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Changes at the Grammy Awards include members voting in fewer categories at the 2017 show and songs only released on streaming services being in contention for nomination.

The Recording Academy announced changes Thursday that will impact the 2017 Grammys, to be presented Feb. 12 in Los Angeles. Streaming-only recordings — released on paid-subscription platforms like Spotify, Apple Music and Tidal but not for sale on iTunes — will now qualify for Grammy nominations.

"We noticed that there were a number of higher-profile artists who were choosing — for philosophical reasons as much as anything — to release their music through streaming-only, and we did not want

to be exclusionary toward them," Bill Freimuth, the academy's senior vice president of awards, said in an interview.

Some acts, including Prince and Beyonce, have exclu-

sively debuted music on Tidal. They later released the music on iTunes and other platforms. Chance

the Rapper's project, "Coloring Book," was released exclusively on Apple Music and will have a chance to compete.

Other changes include the number of categories that

four categories — album of the year, song of the year, record of the year and best new artist — which all members are allowed to vote in. They were approved last month during the annual board of trustees meeting. The best new artist category — often revamped to keep up with the changing music industry — will now allow a performer that releases at least five singles to qualify. Previously, acts would have to release an album. Best new artist isn't only for brand-new acts: Acts qualify until they release three albums or 30 singles. The best rap/sung collaboration, awarded to rap and R&B acts that team up on a track, is being renamed to best rap/sung performance. And the award is no longer exclusive to collaborations: Solo acts who sing and rap on a track — including Drake,

Future and Chris Brown — can now compete in the category with a song featuring both vocal styles.

"The effort here is to protect the integrity of the Grammy Awards, and so sometimes that means typing up some rules, and sometimes that means loosening up some rules, sometimes that means contracting a category, sometimes that means adding a category," Freimuth said. "It's all to best reflect the current state of music in this country." Other changes include splitting best blues album into two categories — best traditional blues album and best contemporary blues album.

Songs and albums released between Oct. 1, 2015 and Sept. 30, 2016 will be eligible for nomination at the 2017 Grammys. Nominations will be announced Dec. 6.



In this Oct. 4, 2015, file photo, Chance The Rapper performs at the Austin City Limits Music Festival in Zilker Park in Austin, Texas.
Associated Press

sively debuted music on Tidal. They later released the music on iTunes and other platforms. Chance

Grammy members can vote in, which is reduced to 15 from 20. That number doesn't include the top

New push aims to fix misspelling of NYC's Verrazano Bridge

VERENA DOBNIK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's an error that has loomed over New York Harbor for more than 50 years: The name of the majestic Verrazano-Narrows Bridge is spelled wrong.

Despite a new petition drive to make it right — the bridge is named for 16th-century Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano (two Z's) — the state authority that controls the span has stubbornly held to the one Z position it's taken for years: We know it's wrong, but we're not changing it.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials say it would simply be too expensive to change all the signs, brochures, maps and websites. Changing the name of New York's Triborough Bridge to the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge in 2008, for example, reportedly cost the state \$4 million.

"This is a travesty," said Robert Nash, a 21-year-old Brooklyn college student who started an online petition to add the other Z to North America's longest suspension bridge. "To



A road sign indicating an entrance to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge is seen in New York, Wednesday, June 8, 2016. Associated Press

the first European to explore New York Harbor in

over the years, would it be acceptable if the George Washington Bridge or John F. Kennedy International Airport were spelled wrong?

So why push for the name change now? Nash, whose petition was first reported by the Brooklyn Paper and its Brooklyn Daily website, says it came to him by chance as he was taking pictures of the bridge with his girlfriend. He noticed a

sign with the name and it just looked wrong. His suspicions were confirmed when he checked Italian websites for the explorer's name, "and I said, 'Wow!'" Exactly how the error was made in the first place is unclear.

At the time the bridge opened in 1964, the nation was still grieving President John F. Kennedy's assassination, and famed New York urban planner Robert Moses had reportedly favored naming the bridge for him. It was John LaCorte, founder of the New York-based Italian Historical Society of America, who led the fight to have the bridge named for Ver-

origin of the error was the original 1959 building contract, which spelled Verrazzano's name with one Z.

"We're talking about a typo and everybody let it go," Talese told The Associated Press. "Nobody noticed because nobody really knew who Verrazzano was then."

Others, however, have managed to get the name right.

A statue of Verrazzano in lower Manhattan includes the two Z's, as does a bridge over Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay.

One of the city's prominent Italian-Americans, Mayor Bill de Blasio, chuckled when he was informed of



In this Nov. 1, 2009 file photo, runners cross the Verrazano Narrows Bridge at the start of the ING New York City Marathon in New York.

Associated Press



In this Nov. 2, 2012 file photo, the Staten Island side of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge is dark and the Brooklyn side still has lights in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

Associated Press

honor a man and name a bridge after him and not spell his name right?"

Nash, whose mother is Italian and father half-Italian, said Italian-Americans everywhere deserve better. "We were always proud of being of Italian descent, and this rich culture shaped who I am," he says.

After all, there was no question how Verrazzano,

1524, spelled his name. So why, Nash asks, should Italian-Americans have to endure the error every time they cross the 4,260-foot span between Brooklyn and Staten Island? Why should they seethe every year when the bridge gets worldwide attention as the starting point for the New York Marathon?

And as critics have noted

razzano. Some have speculated Gov. Nelson Rockefeller signed off on the name with one Z.

But according to Gay Talese, who chronicled the span's construction for The New York Times and in his book "The Bridge," the

the petition drive during a news conference Wednesday.

"I will get a task force going on that right away and get back to you," the mayor joked. "As a proud Italian, I need to go back and do my research." □



In this July 19, 2009 file photo, the Australian naval frigate HMAS Sydney passes under the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge as it enters New York Harbor.

Associated Press